

# BTEA

THE ASSOCIATION OF  
NEW YORK'S LEADING CONTRACTORS

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## To All BTEA Contractors:

**What appears below is a letter that was released to Building Contractors Association (BCA) by Managing Director, John O'Hare. All association executives and their contractors are recommended to follow this guidance.**

Over the last few months, it has often felt like we had achieved a certain level of equilibrium working and living with this pandemic. We may have become "comfortable" with a new normal, maybe even become a bit relaxed about the urgency of following safety protocols. No doubt we have all been experiencing a certain level of Covid-19 fatigue. Unfortunately, recent spikes and increases in infection rates both locally and across the country have reminded us that we are not over the hump just yet.

I have also, unfortunately, been hearing about increased infection rates on jobsites. This is a problem that threatens your business, our industry and the overall economy. No one wants another government mandated shutdown. We cannot afford another shutdown. It is imperative that everyone remind themselves of the safety protocols that have been put in place not only by New York State and the City of New York, but those agreed to by the contractor associations and the building trades collectively.

Every contractor has been required to develop a written safety plan. I am asking you to revisit those plans, review your safety protocols, comply with them and enforce them when need be.

Even though the safety guidelines may have said things like contractors "should" or "may" require temperature taking in order to avoid imposing a mandatory obligation, there is a value in public perception. How is the industry being viewed?

If the State begins to see jobsites as super-spreader locations or events, you are in danger of being shutdown. There are murmurs within the industry that make me concerned. Certain sites are seeing spikes and being shutdown. Diligent compliance is key.

As the phrase goes, if you see something, say something. Talk to your safety professionals. Talk to your superintendents. Talk to your labor force. Use peer pressure. Remind all workers that a shutdown impacts them directly.

In an Industrywide Zoom meeting yesterday, Union Leadership committed to reinforcing Covid awareness with their members. We need to do our part by enforcing compliance with the safety protocols.

In other words, do what you need to do to make the jobsite safe for everyone.

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**I have included links to the NYS and NYC safety protocol websites for your review.**

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/ConstructionMasterGuidance.pdf>

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/ConstructionShortGuidelines.pdf>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/about/covid-19-response.page>

