COVID-19 news & updates

The health and safety of ACEC Missouri's employees and members is at the forefront of our policies and guidelines, and as such, we are continuously addressing the coronavirus outbreak. In accordance with government guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we will work from the office on Monday but will work remotely Tuesday-Friday. We will reassess as the situation develops. If you wish to reach out to staff, contact Bruce Wylie or Dawn Hill.

COVID-19 Information:

- MO Dept. of Health & Senior Services
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Awareness Campaign
- MO Association of Counties Operation & Workplace Guidance Resources
- Federal Actions Relating to COVID-19
- SBA Offers Low-Interest Federal Loans to Mitigate Coronavirus Impact

ACEC Provides Member Resources for COVID-19

ACEC National is a premier resource and is providing 3 free tools for members as you are working through COVID-19 and they are listed below. If you have any questions in regards to any of these items, please contact Caitlin Green at 202-682-4320.

1) Learn from these A/E Business Thought Leaders on ways to manage your business challenges related to the virus. Business Continuity Planning During Uncertain Times - ACEC/MA Web Briefing. This is available on-demand from our platform for free and you can access the recorded web seminar here.

2) Join ACEC for a free webinar on Tuesday, March 24th at 3:30PM Eastern titled "COVID-19 Legislation: What Do Employers Need to Know?" The webinar will be hosted by Amanda Machin of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and it will cover the employer-related provisions in HR 6201 as amended: emergency leave, emergency sick leave, and the payroll tax credits for employers that are required to provide the leave in response to the coronavirus. Sign up for the free educational session here. We will record and have it available on demand after the event for free.

3) As part of ACEC’s outreach to member firms during the coronavirus pandemic, we are convening small, medium, and large firm virtual round table sessions on Monday, March 23rd. These sessions will provide our members with a platform to discuss the issues facing your business as well as share ideas on how our industry can help our communities during the crisis. The virtual roundtables are a free event for members.
Registration links for each roundtable can be found below. Once registered you will be sent login information. Joining the roundtable is easy and can be done through your computer or via phone. If you have questions on registration, contact Maureen Brown at mbrown@acec.org.

**Small Firm Roundtable**  
Monday, March 23, 2020  
3:00-4:00PM Eastern  

**Medium Firm Roundtable**  
Monday, March 23, 2020  
12:30-1:30 PM Eastern  

**Large Firm Roundtable**  
Monday, March 23, 2020  
2:00-3:00 PM Eastern  

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**Results of ACEC COVID-19 Business Impact Survey**

ACEC National recently sent a survey on COVID-19 Business Impact and had a great response. You will see the top line results below. Also, they put together graphs that give you a fuller picture of all the responses. To see those graphics, click [here](#).

**Survey Results:**

- There were 794 respondents to the survey. Of them, 53% were firms under 25 FTEs.
- Most of our firms do not travel internationally (60%) and therefore, there was no change to their policies.
- For domestic travel: 66% of respondents have restricted travel to training or conferences. 52% have restricted air travel.
- For work from home: 20% have not changed their policy and said it’s business as usual. Most (64%) are either encouraging or allowing employees to work from home. Only 8% have made work from home mandatory.
- 23% of responding firms are providing paid emergency leave, 13% are providing emergency unpaid leave. Interestingly, 13% already have an unrestricted leave policy.
- When asked how firms are working with clients to ensure work can continue- 77% are ensuring social distancing, 73% are allowing virtual work, 52% are focusing on meeting and project hygiene, and 52% are limiting access to offices, project and construction sites.
- 96% said they have not had problems with public clients when protective measures may conflict with contract terms.
- 56% have not experienced project delays or cancellations; 44% have experienced delays/cancellations.
- 76% have not experienced delays in the issuance of RFPs/RFQs or awards; 24% have experienced delays in issuance of RFPs/RFQs.

When asked to describe any other business issues that you are experiencing related to COVID-19 respondents answers fell into several main categories:

- Significant interest in what will pass Congress and how it will affect their business-particularly small firms  
- Many not experiencing major project delays as of now but expecting that to change  
- Worry that work will slow- starting to see it happening  
- Worry that clients will pay more slowly (particularly public clients)- starting to see it happening  
- Office going remote resulting in uncertainty of workflow  
- General employee distraction due to depth of crisis and rate of change  
- Economic uncertainty
Information on Latest Stimulus Package

Below is a quick summary with links to the stimulus package released by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell yesterday. The package does include a number of policy changes advocated by ACEC over the past week. The hope is that McConnell and Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer can work out a compromise today or over the weekend, with a vote to follow early next week. Please give this a look and let us know what questions you have, or if you have recommendations for additional initiatives. Please contact Steve Hall at ACEC.

One key point that ACEC will continue to emphasize in outreach to the White House and to Congress is the need to ensure that infrastructure – and related design and construction activities – are considered essential functions at the state and federal level, and that a robust infrastructure component needs to be a part of the economic stimulus and recovery agenda.

Summary of the CARES Act (draft legislative text)

Division A: Small Business Loans

- Expansion of existing Small Business Administration loan guarantee program.
- Employers with 500 employees or fewer eligible to apply for loans through SBA-certified financial institutions.
- Maximum loan amount of $10 million, based on applicant’s average monthly payroll; mortgage, rent and utility payments; and other debt obligations over the previous year.
- Conditional upon business retaining their employees and payroll levels during the covered period (March 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020), the portion of the loan used to cover payroll and payments on pre-existing debt would be forgiven.

Senate Small Business Committee summary.

Division B: Tax Relief for Individuals, Families and Businesses

- Checks of up to $1,200 individuals/$2,400 joint filers, phased out at incomes of $99,000 individuals/$198,000 joint filers.
- Delay of estimated tax payments for individuals (including passthrough owners) and corporations to October 15, 2020.
- Employers and self-employed individuals can defer paying the employer share of the Social Security payroll tax (6.2%) over the following two years – half due by December 31, 2021 and the other half due by December 31, 2022.
- Allows a company to carry back net operating losses from 2018, 2019 or 2020 to be carried back for five years.
- Temporary increase in interest deductibility for businesses from 30 percent to 50 percent for 2019 and 2020.

Senate Finance Committee summary.

Division D: Health Care/Labor

- Clarifies the limits on paid emergency leave and emergency sick leave in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201).
- Expands the authority of the Department of Labor to exempt firms with fewer than 50 employees from the paid leave requirements in HR 6201.
• Allows employers and the self-employed to receive an advance tax credit from Treasury for emergency paid leave and sick leave under HR 6201 instead of having to be reimbursed on the back end.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee summary.

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**Insurance Coverage Issues Related to COVID-19**

The ACEC Business Insurance Trust has provided a report that outlines insurance coverages applicable to various claims that could arise in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and outlines the likelihood of recovery. To see this complete report, click here.

Additionally, EPIC Brokers, is providing weekly updates you can read here: https://epicbrokers.com/coronavirus/.

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**Important Information on ACEC Pay Direct Dues Billing**

ACEC is actively monitoring the rapid changes and developments related to COVID-19 across all our departments. The safety and well-being of our team, our members and the engineering industry as a whole is foremost in our minds. We are taking steps not only to serve as a resource for news and information, but also to collect information about how the coronavirus is impacting your business in order to share best practices and effectively advocate for your needs. We recognize these are challenging times and stand ready to serve.

At the same time, we are working through our normal course of business, including membership dues processing. ACEC will be sending out outstanding membership invoices soon for FY2020 (July 2019 – June 2020). These invoices will only go to firms that are pay-direct for national dues. We want to be sensitive and mindful not to put our members in an even more difficult position. Given that posture, we are prepared to extend deferred payment arrangements should you desire. Please reach out to Diana Dunham (ddunham@acec.org) or Daphne Bryant (dbryant@acec.org) and let us know so we can set up a deferred payment plan for you.

Be well and please let us know how we can help.

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**Coronavirus Resource Document Available**

ACEC has put together a Coronavirus Resource Document that they update daily. It includes information on COVID-19 related news; Global Snapshot from the World Health Organization; COVID-19 Statistics; Regional COVID-19 Statistics; Association Travel Policies; Conventions and Event Status for Groups and Associations; Survey of Other Cancelled Conferences and Events; and Federal Action on Coronavirus. To see this detailed document, click here.

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