



Building Trades Union Members,

In construction, we have to be vigilant about safety. COVID-19 is a new safety issue which can be managed by our contractors taking sensible steps to improve jobsite sanitation and by personal action to understand the hazard and taking steps to protect yourself.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the Building Trades and affiliated unions at all levels have been working hard to help protect our members in several ways.

1. Safety
 - Educating our members and sharing best practices.
 - Both NABTU and the MN Trades Council have added COVID-19 information to their websites at mntrades.org.
 - Jobsite advocacy. If there are shortcomings on your jobsite call your union immediately.
2. Continuation of construction field operations
 - We have been advocating for construction to be classified as critical. We cannot stress enough that while we believe projects can continue safely, each contractor and member has a role to play to prevent a jobsite transmission of COVID-19.
3. Unemployment has been modified to:
 - Eliminate the waiting week.
 - Eliminate the requirement to seek work.
 - Is available to anyone who is not working due to COVID-19.
 - Extended and increased under new federal action.

We believe these efforts have positioned our members, so they have options that allow them to make choices about what is best for themselves and their families.

If you are comfortable with the situation on your job, please continue to work safely and productively. If you are not comfortable, please contact your union immediately to see if steps can be taken to ensure you and your co-workers can work safely. If you are unable to continue to work because you need to avoid the possibility of exposure, you can ask for a layoff and collect unemployment.

Each member's situation is different, and your union is here to support you no matter what you decide is best for you and your family.

In Solidarity,

The Building Trades Councils of Minnesota