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As we begin the week, we wanted to share with you a recap of where things stand right now and give a look ahead to programs and resources that we are offering to help your business navigate this uncertain time.

Below you'll find new [safety resources](#) designed specifically for our industry. These tools will help your business continue to meet the safety guidelines required in our region.

We've also included a [state-by-state update](#) on government actions impacting our industry. We have summarized what has happened so far, what NESPA is doing to further advocate for our industry and important resources & news for each state.

Connecting with other peers in the industry is the foundation of who we are as an association. We've created new virtual ways for our members to learn from each other and industry leaders. Below you'll find details on [webinars happening this week](#).

Stay Safe.

It is important to stay up-to-date on safety guidelines for working at this time. We've worked with our partners to create valuable tools you can use in your business as well as compiling key resources from the CDC.

- **NEW!** [Best Management Practices for Business Owners](#)
- [CDC Cleaning & Disinfecting Recommendations](#)

- [OSHA: Preparing Your Workplace for COVID-19](#)

It is important to not only implement safety related policies around controlling the spread of COVID-19, but also to communicate those to your employees and your customers.

Work Smart.

NESPA continues to monitor the situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact on our region. Below is the status of our states as of this mailing. We will share any updates or changes as they happen.

Connecticut

Both pool service and construction work are allowed to continue. We continue to work with our government affairs team at CONSPA to anticipate any changes that may happen and to advocate for our industry.

- The State of Connecticut has agreed to extend the deadline for the required CEU's for the SPB License Holders to October 30, 2020. You still must renew your SPB License by April 30, 2020. Only CEU requirements have been extended.
- [Connecticut DECD: Coronavirus Business Recovery Resources](#)
- [Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employers](#)

Connecticut Resources

New Jersey

By Executive Order, Governor Murphy halted all “non-essential” construction effective Friday, April 10 at 8 pm.

Under the order and the guidance provided, essential construction includes:

- Projects already underway at a single-family home with a construction crew of 5 or fewer;
- Any work to secure and protect a non-essential construction project for its suspension;
- Any emergency repairs necessary for the health and safety of residents.

Based on guidance from legal counsel and Government Affairs professionals, it appears that pool construction projects already underway, provided they meet criteria above on crew size and follow the revised workplace guidance, may continue.

This Executive Order does not impact the industry's ability to provide pool and spa maintenance. This work can continue as long as companies follow the revised workplace guidance.

- [Executive Order 122](#)
- [Revised Workplace Guidance](#)
- [Essential Construction Explained](#)

New Jersey Resources

New York

New York has restricted construction work to Emergency Construction which has been defined as the work necessary to “protect the health and safety of the occupants, or to continue a project if it would be unsafe to allow to remain undone until it is safe to shut the site may continue”.

It is our position that most currently open pool construction projects would meet this definition at least until the point that the pool can hold water that can be circulated and maintained. Projects not at this point would pose an obvious safety hazard for the homeowner. NESPA, in partnership with PHTA and our METRO & Long Island Chapters, has sought confirmation from the Empire State Development Corp. on this issue.

Pool maintenance is allowed but the state has issued guidance, we believe in error, to a member company that pool openings are not allowed. We strongly disagree and are making the case to the state that in the northeast the spring start-up of pools is essential to pool maintenance especially as the weather warms in the region.

[WATCH: NESPA's interview with ABC 7 on why pool openings are essential.](#)

New York Resources

Pennsylvania

Although pool and spa service and maintenance are considered essential under Governor Wolf's order, there are inconsistencies between the Governor's Executive Order and the [CISA](#) guidance- particularly for retailers, distributors, and builders.

PA has been the most restrictive state in the NESPA region. Many have sought updates and clarifications. Here is where we believe things stand at the moment:

- **New Pool construction** may not take place. We will be sharing shortly details on legislation that you can support which would order the governor to loosen up his restraints on construction.
- **Existing projects** can only be worked to make the site secure, or to finish punch-list style items on a project that has received a CO.
- **Maintenance** has still been deemed essential, and the state has not issued guidance about openings specifically. The industry consensus is that starting up a pool in the spring is a component of service and maintenance.
- **Retail** remains a point of contention, as some stores seem to be allowed to function, while others have been asked by local enforcement to close. We continue to advocate in support of retail establishments.

Pennsylvania Resources

Stay Connected.

When NESPA members come together, we keep our industry strong.

Last week, we held a webinar for our members focused on **Spring Start-Up Training** for your staff. Offered at no cost, this webinar was a chance to keep your spring training program on track for the season. For those who missed it, we've made the recording available on our [website](#).

This week, we'll be holding **two new webinars** for our members. Pre-registration is required and space is limited to allow for attendee participation.

[Upcoming Webinars for Members](#)

Tuesday, April 14 @ 4pm

Leading Wisely in Challenging Times

Leadership & Business Sustainability

Join pool & spa business experts and business coaches, Jay Forte and Guy Gruenberg, for this virtual, round-table discussion where they will share strategic steps you can take to lead your business right now.

[Click here for more details and to register](#)

Thursday, April 16 @ 4 pm

Northeast Business Leaders Forum

How Pool & Spa Companies are Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis

This webinar will bring together owners and top staff from pool companies around our region to share the specific steps they are taking to guide their businesses through the current crisis and beyond.

[Click here for more details and to register](#)

This information is being provided to you as a member of the Northeast Spa and Pool association and is intended for your use to make decisions about your individual business during the restrictions put in place as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. If you have concerns about your specific business operation you should consult your attorney. This is not intended as nor should be construed to be legal advice.

Questions? Contact NESPA at

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