Building Services - COVID-19 Questions & Answers

Are industrial, commercial, or institutional construction projects allowed to continue if they have already started?
Generally, no. Except healthcare service and qualified industrial and Agricultural projects.

Are new single detached dwellings, semi-detached and townhomes allowed to continue construction if they have already started?
Yes, provided a building permit was issued before April 5, 2020.

Are new apartment buildings and condominiums allowed to continue if they have started?
Yes, provided an above grade or full permit was issued before April 5, 2020. Where a footing and foundation permit only has been issued, construction must stop.

Are residential additions or renovations allowed to continue?
Yes, provided they were started legally (with a building permit where required) and work physically commenced before April 4, 2020.

Is the City still accepting Building Permit applications?
The City is still accepting building permit applications, reviewing plans, and processing applications remotely. Applications can be submitted electronically.

With the office closed to the Public, how are building permit fees submitted?
Payments are accepted online through the dash portal where applicable and checks can be submitted using the drop box at the front door of 1211 John Counter Boulevard.
For other inquiries including visa payments please contact 613-546-4291 extension 3280 or buildingpermits@cityofkingston.ca

Are the Building Code prescribed timelines in effect at this time?
No, on or about March 20, 2020, the Province suspended the prescribed timelines in the Building Code, however, staff continue to work remotely processing applications to maintain service levels.

Are there any restrictions on inspections that can continue during the emergency order?
Yes, for staff and public safety, inspections are only being completed on projects that involve unoccupied spaces. In addition, any inspection may be refused by inspectors for reasons of occupational health and safety. If an inspection has been refused, the work must stop or be completed by other means of inspection approved by the inspector.

Has the Province revised bylaws surrounding construction noise at this time?
Yes, construction for healthcare service projects are 24/7 and all other construction projects are 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. as advised on April 8, 2020 by the Province. The City would appreciate if residential contractors could make every attempt to limit construction noise to typical 7a.m. – 7 p.m. when working within areas of other occupied residential buildings.

As COVID-19 is evolving daily and subject to change including amendments to the Emergency Order, please check the City website for an updated list of affected municipal services.