

April 13, 2020

Good Afternoon MNLA Members,

On behalf of everyone at MNLA, we hope that you and your family are healthy.

Here are updates from the MNLA Team. As we send this out the Governor is holding a press conference and the MNLA Board has an electronic Meeting at 4:00 p.m. to discuss this and other items. Please note that information is changing on an hourly basis and we're working hard to keep you informed. We appreciate your patience during this fluid situation. In today's update we're providing the following:

1. Our new Executive Order and FAQ
2. What we're doing for you
  - a. State advocacy efforts
  - b. Workgroup on Reopening Business – April 17 recommendations to Governor
  - c. National organizations and options
3. Protests – More harm than good for our industry
4. Business Financial Relief – details on what is available to you
5. Families First Coronavirus Response Act – Effective Date April 1—Employer Responsibilities
6. MNLA member COVID-19 Survey – please click [HERE](#) to provide us with how our Stay at Home Order is impacting your business. The information you provide is confidential and will be utilized only to get you safely back to work.

1) On Thursday, April 9 our Governor created a new Executive Order that extended our Stay at Home Order until April 30. It was a horrible blow to our industry as this Order includes stricter restrictions on our retail, lawn care, landscaping, tree service, irrigation, and related outdoor maintenance companies. Both are attached for your review and you can click [HERE](#) to see more.

Adding to the confusion, we have cities speaking out against the Executive Order on what they will and will not allow. What is clear—the fines for violating the Order are \$1,000 and the enforcement is being handled by local authorities. What is unclear—there are varying opinions on whether or not the threat that you could lose your business license for violating the Order is real.

The MNLA Board of Director's recommendation is that all members abide by the intent of this Order. But we caution you that there are exemptions that allow some businesses to work. Specifically, businesses that are classified as agriculture and forestry can continue working. It may look like a competitor is working when they shouldn't be, and they may be working under one of the exemptions. The last thing we need at this time is for our industry to implode from not standing together!

2) Here's what we're doing for you—

a. The MNLA Board of Directors have been in daily eMeetings and group emails to strategize on the safest and quickest way to get you back to work. Many things are being discussed and we'll keep you updated as decisions are made.

b. Our lobbyist continues to carry our message to the Governor's office, and both the Senate and House leadership. A bipartisan workgroup has been formed and will be giving recommendations to the Governor on April 17. We have been asked to be included in this initial report to get our industry safely back to work.

c. We continue to strategize with our national partners that are very interested in finding an equitable and safe solution for Michigan's green industry.

3) Protests – there are a couple of protests planned by other organizations this week in Lansing. We understand that you are angry but we DO NOT recommend that you participate in these protests! The negative publicity will be intense and will be harmful to our industry. Especially if first responders are called out.

4) Business Financial Relief – we've put together a list of financial assistance that are available from the Federal and State governments. This list details who is eligible, what the program is, if it needs to be paid back, limitations, and how to apply.

5) Families First Coronavirus Response Act – this went into effect on April 1. Here are resources for you and your employees to help you with compliance. More information can be found at AmericanHort by clicking [HERE](#).

- a. Employer Requirements
- b. Employee Information
- c. Questions and Answers
- d. Compliance posters in both English and Spanish

Please be safe.

Amy

Amy Upton  
Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association  
2149 Commons Parkway  
Okemos, MI 48864  
Ph (517) 381-0437  
Fax (517) 381-0638  
E-mail: [amy@mnl.org](mailto:amy@mnl.org)

*"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." – Vince Lombardi*

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