

# **FAQs about Construction Noise Control within the City of Alexandria during COVID-19 Pandemic**

## **1. How is construction noise regulated in the City of Alexandria?**

The City of Alexandria governs construction noise through Sec. 11-5-4 (b)15 of the city's Noise Ordinance. All construction activities are regulated by permitted hours and not by decibel levels. The provisions of this section are as follows.

- Construction activities including the use of construction devices and power equipment, equipment loading/unloading, material delivery, communication devices, worker arrivals/departures are permitted during the following hours:
  - Monday - Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - Sunday: Prohibited
- The use of Pile Drivers (Sec. 11-5-4 (b)19) is permitted during the following hours:
  - Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - Sunday: Prohibited
- All construction activities are prohibited on the following holidays (Sec. 11-5-5(a)(5)a):
  - New Year's Day (the first day of January)
  - Memorial Day (the last Monday in May)
  - Independence Day (July 4)
  - Labor Day (the first Monday in September)
  - Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday in November)
  - Christmas Day (December 25)

## **2. Are construction activities prohibited by the Virginia Governor's executive order of March 24, 2020, regarding temporary closure of non-essential businesses during the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?**

Governor Ralph Northam issued [a statewide order](#) to protect the health and safety of Virginians and reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The Executive Order Fifty-Three, effective March 24, 2020 through April 23, 2020, orders the closure of certain non-essential businesses. By this order, the construction industry and construction retail stores and trades are considered essential and can remain open and/or operational during this period of emergency. Maryland and the District of Columbia issued similar executive orders at around the same time and again, the construction industry and related retail stores are not required to be closed.

The City recognized that with the current business requirement and/or encouragement to telework from home, this could potentially create noise issues for some residents living

close to existing construction sites. Although the City does not have regulatory authority to curtail a commercial activity that is allowed by the state of Virginia, it enforces the noise code as required. If you have a specific noise issue related to a nearby construction site, please file a complaint through the Alex311 system. Staff will then follow up with construction contractors to discuss and encourage them to adopt voluntary noise mitigation measures and report the outcome back to you.

The City continues to work diligently to minimize noise impacts to all residents and would like to thank all involved for your understanding and patience during this period of uncertainty and hardship.