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March 29, 2021

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Governor Pritzker announced the State of Illinois enters Phase 1c of vaccine distribution on March 29, 2021. This critical phase includes all other essential workers including construction and services to buildings and housing. This would include essential services for the following trades: landscape contractors (construction and maintenance), lawn care, snow removal, and tree care. Irrigation professionals are expressly listed under water management professionals.

Landscape workers have been essential since Governor Pritzker issued his first “Stay-at-Home” order in March of 2020. He has extended that order with no changes to the ability for landscape professionals to work. Specifically, the order allowed for the continued operation of essential businesses only. Lawn and landscape services are essential services and permissible under Section 12. Paragraph H. of the Executive Order that reads: Critical trades. Building and Construction Tradesmen and Tradeswomen, plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses and Operations;

Although landscaping is not mentioned by name, landscape services were verified as essential by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Activity on March 23, 2020. They released an FAQ document on essential businesses that reads:

Can residential and commercial lawn service remain open?

Yes. Many landscape projects will fit under an exemption such as construction, agriculture, or public works. Outdoor landscape projects generally will provide for good social distancing that poses little risk of transmission, but it still is important to ensure the ability to wash or sanitize hands and take other precautions.

This guidance has remained unchanged for the entire duration of the Stay-at-Home order and each phase of the Restore Illinois guidelines. Given this context, all landscape, tree care, snow removal, lawn care, and irrigation professionals should be vaccinated as part of Phase 1c in all counties across Illinois.

Regards,

Scott Grams
Executive Director

ILCA's Mission...To enhance the professionalism and expertise of members by providing leadership, education, representation, and services while promoting environmental awareness and the value of the landscape industry.