Landscape Industry Best Practices for COVID-19 Safe Operations

These recommendations are not meant to override any guidelines set by the State of Ohio.

With Clients:

- Get verbal and/or written confirmation from your clients that they allow you to work on their property.
- Communicate, as accurately as possible, when you plan to be on their property.
- Inform clients of the safety protocols your company has put in place, including but not limited to proximity rules (6 feet).
- Designate one on-site contact (potentially the foreman) for your clients. Ask them not to approach workers, other than this contact. Communicate by phone, text or email whenever possible.
- Be prepared to cease working if a client raises any health or safety concerns.

With Staff:

- Allow employees who are uncomfortable working to stay home. (Some may have time-off they can use.)
- Communicate and reinforce all safety protocols daily, via text and email. Also, communicate why the work you are doing, day to day, is considered essential.
- Train designated personnel (possibly foreman) to answer safety and health questions from the public and/or officials clearly and concisely. We recommend written safety rules to be carried with employees.
- In instances where employees will be on one job site all day long, encourage meeting on-site, rather than at the shop.
- In instances where employees must report to the shop, stagger crew start times to minimize proximity issues.
- Businesses should operate with the least amount of employees necessary on any site.
- All employees should have their temperatures logged at the beginning and end of the workday.
- If at all possible, limit crews to one person per truck.
- In instances where it is imperative two employees must travel together, pair employees together indefinitely. Require workers to wear glasses and masks while traveling. Assign them one truck that is not to be shared. Make sure the vehicle is as well ventilated as possible. Each vehicle should be sanitized at days end. If one employee becomes ill, both should be treated as if they are contagious. Follow CDC self-quarantine rules.
- Enforce sanitation of all common areas including trucks, storage rooms, offices, restrooms, etc.
- Wear proper PPE at all times. Store PPE in clear plastic bags, sanitizing PPE at the end of every day. DO NOT, for any reason, share PPE.
- Minimize the use of shared equipment, making sure to properly and fully sanitize all equipment after each use.
- Always maintain proper social distancing (6 feet), unless necessary. In the event, employees must work close to one another, for heavy lifting, etc., wear a face mask and gloves. Once separated, immediately wash/sanitize hands.