



Dear INLA Members,

I have been contacted by several members and non-members regarding Governor Eric Holcomb's "Directive for Hoosiers To Stay at Home" which deals with the spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). The order takes affect at 11:59pm on March 24, 2020 and remains in full force until 11:59pm on April 6, 2020.

There are numerous industries and services which will be impacted by this order. There are others which may not be. We believe that the lawn, landscape, and irrigation industry, and their suppliers are among those that are considered Essential Businesses and Operations and thus able to remain in operation during the above period.

Below is Section 14, paragraph J of the order: It is entitled "Critical Trades"

"Building, construction, and other trades, including, but not limited to, plumbers, electricians, exterminators, operating engineers, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, HVAC, painting, 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 Business and Operations".

I would note that while our industry is not specifically listed in this paragraph, most experts agree that we are or should be included. Other states including Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia have recognized this to be the case.

At the same time, **individual decisions have to be made by individual organizations and companies** until, and if, a more definitive statement is made by the Governor's office

We are a great industry! Our members work outside and we continue to provide jobs for Hoosiers. The turfgrass, landscape, and grounds we maintain in horticulture are a valuable part of the bigger world of agriculture. We are indeed "Urban Farmers" and should be very proud of our much-needed effort to keep Indiana green and growing.

I have received a varying amount of confirmation/non-confirmation regarding our industry as essential. However, one that was non-committal left the following remark at the end.

"Finally, we encourage you to use smart judgement and follow Governor Holcomb's social distancing requirements."

Our industry is responsible for creating and maintaining a safe, healthy, sustainable environment for all including those private or commercial residences we provide a service to.

Regards,

Rick Haggard – Executive Director