



The Honorable Chris Sununu
Governor of the State of New Hampshire
By email to governorsununu@nh.gov

The Honorable Lori Shabinette
Commissioner of Health and Human Services
State of New Hampshire
By email to OCOM@dhhs.nh.gov

Dear Governor Sununu and Commissioner Shabinette,

As you are well aware, in New Hampshire about one-third of confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 80% of COVID-19 deaths have been linked to long-term care facilities.

As one means to address this tragedy, you as Governor and Health Commissioner have initiated a review of ventilation systems in the healthcare facilities that have experienced outbreaks. I and others in the building design and construction community applaud this initiative and hope that common factors will emerge that can be addressed to help stem further spread of the virus.

In addition to this review, there is another important tool that can be used to not only help curb infection, but also address many other risks associated with construction work in healthcare facilities. Toward that end, I am writing to urge you to strongly encourage or require healthcare construction and maintenance workers in the state to earn an ANSI/ASTM-accredited Pre-construction Risk Assessment/Infection Control Risk Assessment (PCRA/ICRA) Certificate.

PCRA is the umbrella for ICRA, as well as other healthcare construction risks that include, noise, vibration, odors, security, maintenance, life safety, ventilation, utility systems, medical equipment, storing, transporting, and delivering supplies and materials, and waste management. The assessment requires a multidisciplinary process to control risks associated with both planned and unplanned construction, renovation demolition, deconstruction and maintenance/repairs. It is designed to focus on and protect patients, staff, visitors, construction workers and surrounding communities.

Prophetically, immediately prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, in a two-part article featured in a publication of The Joint Commission (see page 13 of each of the attached), five authors who are experts in healthcare health and safety called for an ANSI/ASTM-accredited PCRA/ICRA Certificate for all healthcare construction, pre-construction and maintenance workers.

The Certificate Program requires participants to take 12 hours of webinar training and pass an exam administered via online proctoring. Because those possessing the

credential can use it to qualify for any healthcare construction job, the cost of registering for the Certificate Program would be borne by workers or their employers. As a result, there are excellent benefits to the public at no cost to the State for its prompting construction personnel to earn the credential. More information can be found about the ANSI/ASTM-accredited PCRA/ICRA Certificate Program at <https://greenadvantage.org/pcra-certificate-program>.

The New Hampshire Chapter of USGBC stands ready to work with you to quickly advance this public protection program to all healthcare pre-construction, construction and maintenance workers. Please let me know if we can be of help with this worthy effort.

Thanks for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Douglas Shilo, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
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