

Jay Timmons
President and CEO

December 15, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol St. NW, Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
Vice Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol St. NW, Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Governor Cuomo and Governor Hutchinson,

During this ongoing public health crisis, manufacturers continue to do everything possible to ensure the health and safety of millions of workers around the country. Unprecedented investments have been made to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace, and manufacturers have committed to doing our part to prevent community spread from affecting workers and facilities and to keep the economy going during this difficult time. I am confident that the men and women of manufacturing, as well as the families and communities that support them, will pull our nation out of the pandemic through innovation, grit and a dogged determination to rebuild our lives and economy.

For that reason, as states prepare to receive vaccine allocations in the coming weeks and consider Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on vaccine distribution, manufacturers recommend that governors rely on the sound definitions of essential critical infrastructure workforce offered by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. These terms are comprehensive and well understood by the manufacturing community. Moreover, the CISA explanations of the industry sectors that comprise the nation's critical infrastructure can be applied uniformly in various emergency and response circumstances determined by states and their elected leaders.

More than ever, the country is depending on the vital products manufacturers make—from critical equipment and vehicles needed for our nation's first responders to COVID-19 test kits, essential medicines and now a vaccine. Even manufactured items that may not seem critical are part of the supply chain for products that determine our comfort and survival during these uncertain times. As the nation awaits the deliveries of approved vaccines, we are requesting that you consider the CISA guidance as a framework for identifying essential facilities, supply chains and their workers to ensure that employees tied to manufacturing production have access to vaccines when your state is ready to deploy larger-scale vaccinations.

Without clear and consistent definitions around essential employees and essential businesses for vaccine distribution, needless confusion and misallocations of scarce resources could result, harming public health and safety. We appreciate your urgent attention to our recommendation to keep manufacturing workers healthy and safe during this national crisis—so that together we can lead our economic recovery and national renewal.

Sincerely,



Jay Timmons