

Jay Timmons  
President and CEO

March 9, 2020

Robert Redfield, M.D.  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Redfield:

On behalf of thousands of manufacturing companies and 13 million American manufacturing workers, I am requesting guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the protocols and required steps that must be taken if a manufacturing worker or community member is infected with COVID-19.

Manufacturers consistently rise to the challenge to keep workers healthy in any circumstance, but considering the impacts of COVID-19, stopping the spread of the disease poses new and different questions as the nature of manufacturing is a hands-on enterprise. Telecommuting is often not an option for manufacturers when preparing continuity of operations plans. Manufacturers in every state are eager to be prepared and to understand the immediate steps they need to take if workers come in close contact with a coworker who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Manufacturers have taken many protective measures, but our members and their employees have asked us to reach out because many outstanding questions remain. The operational dynamics of a modern manufacturing facility require specific guidance related to quarantine, disinfecting, shutdown procedures and clearances required to reopen if a closure or line stoppage occurs as a result of the COVID-19 impacts. Included below are the most pressing questions from the manufacturing community requiring a response specifically:

- If an employee in the manufacturing environment has a confirmed case of COVID-19, what are the proper protocols to prevent community spread?
- If a manufacturing employee in a non-production setting has a confirmed case of COVID 19, what are the proper protocols to prevent community spread?
- Is the CDC developing a nationwide rapid home test for COVID-19 that could be deployed in the workplace?
- If an infected employee physically contacted manufacturing equipment, inputs and/or outputs, what steps are needed to disinfect the equipment, the raw materials and potentially the finished products?
- What are the recommended strategies and practices for a workplace quarantine if employees are becoming ill?

- If a plant shutdown occurs as a result of a COVID-19 case or outbreak, what is the recommended time offline to disinfect, and what is the appropriate timeframe to resume operations?
- If an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, should the impacted facility expect a CDC investigation? If so, what should the facility expect in order to be prepared, and what type of interruption should be anticipated?
- If community members outside of the workplace or facility are diagnosed with COVID-19, what procedures should be deployed to prevent community spread beyond the current interim guidance to businesses that the CDC has already provided?

Manufacturing contributes \$2.37 trillion to the U.S. economy, representing 11% of the nation's GDP. Manufacturing is the lifeblood of our economy and vital to communities across the nation. Manufacturers are grateful for the CDC's tireless work and the streams of information provided to the American public over the past several weeks. We are ready and willing to work together to support your public health efforts and leadership, but these questions and others will urgently need answers on a public website accessible to the manufacturing community. Your team can connect with my Chief Operating Officer Todd Boppell ([TBoppell@nam.org](mailto:TBoppell@nam.org)) who is leading our COVID-19 response.

With all best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely,



Jay Timmons

Cc: Loren Sweatt, Acting Administrator  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration