



## Update from NAM on COVID-19 March 26, 2019

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*As the State Affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), we are partnering with them to provide updated information from the federal level on the COVID-19 issue and its impact on employers. Below is the latest update. You can also visit our web page at [aif.com](http://aif.com) for the latest update on COVID-19 for Florida employers.*

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Last night, senators came to an agreement on a “phase three” COVID-19 bill, which the Senate is expected to pass later today. The \$2 trillion relief package will provide loans to small businesses, direct financial checks to many Americans, expanded unemployment insurance and much more.

The legislation is the product of intense bipartisan negotiations, and the NAM ensured the unified voice of manufacturers was heard by policymakers as they crafted the final package. The Senate still needs to vote on the package before it is taken up by the House as early as tomorrow. Read a summary of the current understanding of key provisions [here](#).

Here are some of the other recent developments:

### **Continuing the Effort for Essential Business Designations**

The NAM continues to work with our state association partners across the country to help manufacturers continue their essential work. You can monitor this industry-wide effort [here](#). Most recently, the Colorado Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Advanced Manufacturing Association and the Denver Chamber of Commerce worked together with the NAM’s field advocacy team yesterday to persuade the Denver mayor to revise a “stay in place” order so essential manufacturers could continue operating as essential business.

Across the country, we are urging states to pursue a uniform approach by adopting the Department of Homeland Security's Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, and today we joined more than 100 organizations in calling on elected leaders to adopt a common definition of critical infrastructure. We are also working with other leading business groups to encourage states to provide consistent guidance on processes and documentation requirements for these essential businesses. If you haven't already, you can help improve the DHS guidance that many states are adopting by emailing [CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov) and [CISAGuidance@nam.org](mailto:CISAGuidance@nam.org) with detailed examples of why manufacturing and manufacturing supply chains are essential business and critical infrastructure.

View federal guidance from DHS [here](#) and our state resources page [here](#).

### **Creators Respond**

The NAM continues to work with the White House and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate private-sector assistance to produce personal protective equipment and other products critical to our country's response to this crisis. We have received an outpouring of support so far, and we are working with federal leaders to coordinate with manufacturers as quickly as possible.

If your company can help produce vital supplies and component parts, fill out the Creators Respond form [here](#) if you have not already.

We are also actively informing the American public, policymakers and the press about manufacturers' efforts, as I did [on CNBC](#) last night. Please send us your stories, social media posts and other ways we can share your efforts to [responseteam@nam.org](mailto:responseteam@nam.org).

### **Recap of Friday's NAM Call with Vice President Pence, CDC Officials**

As I mentioned last week, Vice President Mike Pence joined the NAM on a conference call Friday with 3,000 manufacturers. I'd like to once again thank Ecolab for providing the platform to host the conference call, which also featured guidance from the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, best practices from The Hershey Company and insights from the NAM policy team.

A recording of the Vice President Pence, CDC and Hershey portion of the call is available [here](#).

A recording of the policy discussion is available [here](#).

### **Labor Department Employee Paid Sick Leave Resources**

As part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division has announced the FFCRA's paid leave mandates will go into effect on April 1, 2020, for companies with fewer than 500 employees. They have also shared fact sheets for how this will affect [employees](#), how it will affect [employers](#) and a [helpful FAQ sheet](#) for employers. The DOL has also requested that the public submit questions, concerns and recommendations for the implementation of the FFCRA. The NAM plans to submit recommendations, and we encourage you to provide feedback to help shape our suggestions.

You can find more information and provide input at the WHD's online submission [here](#).

[Contact](#) the NAM's Drew Schneider if you have any questions.

### **Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement**

Manufacturers are facing an unprecedented challenge with respect to their ability to meet reporting, testing and other regulatory compliance requirements in this time of crisis. There is an urgent need for general enforcement discretion regarding routine and nonroutine regulatory compliance due to travel and shelter-in-place restrictions for employees and others. To help companies navigate the regulatory climate during these turbulent times, the NAM led a compliance and enforcement conference call today with our members to discuss this critical issue.

You can send in details of reporting and monitoring challenges to [ERP@nam.org](mailto:ERP@nam.org).

## **Mobilizing Association Partners**

As we work with key association leaders on the manufacturing community's response to coronavirus, I had an opportunity to speak with leaders from the Council of Manufacturing Associations today to share updates on our strategies and insights into what different organizations are doing to respond to COVID-19, particularly as it relates to coordinating efforts to aid in either the production or distribution of products. The NAM has worked especially closely with our state manufacturing association partners to help manufacturers understand and shape state restrictions to help keep businesses open.

As always, visit [nam.org/coronavirus](https://nam.org/coronavirus) for the latest information, including state-specific resources, on ensuring the health of your employees, the NAM's policy leadership and more.

Email our Response Team at [responseteam@nam.org](mailto:responseteam@nam.org) with any questions or feedback.

Best,

Jay

Jay Timmons

President and CEO

National Association of Manufacturers