

March 30, 2020

To: State, County & City Health Officials

The food, beverage, personal care and household product manufactures and related warehouse, distribution and retail partners are working hard to maintain a reasonable supply of trusted products for all consumers who want and need them during the COVID-19 national emergency. Demand for indispensable, life sustaining products, has increased exponentially as governments act to limit human-to-human exposure and make recommendations about maintaining an adequate supply of those products. The consumer products value chain is working tirelessly to keep shelves fully stocked but faces unprecedented challenges daily that are pushing resources to the limits.

The industries listed below represent sectors that are part of our nation's critical infrastructure as recognized by Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (DHS-CISA) [Guidance for Tier 1 Type of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#). Priority access to COVID-19 testing is a critical first defense to assure that essential workers are healthy and continue to work. Accordingly, it is imperative that essential workers in the critical infrastructure sector have access to priority COVID-19 testing. If essential workers that are asymptomatic for COVID-19, but are carrying the virus, are not tested - particularly in communities with active transmissions - they may infect other employees and potentially jeopardizing consumer packaged goods (CPG) production. Industry has developed guidance for companies to continue operation in the event an employee tests positive. Having the ability to determine asymptomatic individuals through testing will help mitigate a major reduction in available workforce that may cause the need to downscale or shut down operations altogether.

The CPG and retail industry support continued priority testing to healthcare providers and first responders. As testing capabilities expand, we respectfully request that you prioritize CPG manufacturing and retail employees as you administer testing. This critical function during this crisis help assure the products consumers want and need available to them when they go the to store.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Cleaning Institute
American Frozen Food Institute
Consumer Brands Association
Corn Refiners Association
Food Marketing Institute
Global Cold Chain Alliance
International Dairy Foods Association
International Food Service Distributors Association
National Automatic Merchandising Association
National Beer Wholesalers Association
National Confectioners Association
National Grocers Association
North American Millers Association
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association
United Fresh Produce Association