

NAM COVID-19 Update
June 5, 2020

You may have noticed that you are not receiving these emails quite as often. The NAM is focused on making sure you have the information you need—and these emails reflect the volume of information that needs to be shared. We will continue to update you with COVID-19-related resources, and on days when we do not have something actionable or urgent, I won't send an email.

Creators Respond Convenes Call on Ventilator Progress

The Creators Respond team convened a follow-up call with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response Dr. Robert Kadlec to review the progress we've made in accelerating ventilator production. The NAM's efforts were focused on matching manufacturers' resources and expertise with the critical needs outlined by medical device manufacturers—and according to Dr. Kadlec, it was efforts like the NAM's that helped quickly fix the ventilator shortage.

EPA, White House Speed Up Permitting Processes

Infrastructure projects will play a big role in getting Americans back to work and accelerating our recovery. The administration took two actions this week that will speed up the permitting process and help get these projects underway, consistent with the NAM's advocacy. First, the EPA issued a [rule](#) that will protect the nation's waterways while also ensuring that vital energy infrastructure projects aren't blocked for political reasons. Then, yesterday, President Trump issued an infrastructure [executive order](#) that will prioritize infrastructure projects and help manufacturers invest in our communities while protecting the environment.

Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act Passes

Congress has passed and the President has signed the PPP Flexibility Act. The bill grants PPP borrowers 24 weeks to use their loan proceeds—an increase from the current eight-week standard—and provides greater flexibility in how businesses can allocate their loan spending between payroll and nonpayroll costs, removing the Small Business Administration's 75%/25% limitation in favor of a 60%/40% split. The PPP Flexibility Act has been a top priority for the NAM, and you can learn more about the bill and its impact on PPP loan forgiveness in our upcoming Navigating PPP Loan Forgiveness [webinar](#).

Watch: An Update on COVID-19 Nondiscrimination Priorities

Earlier this week, the NAM hosted the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's legal counsel for an update on what companies need to know to prevent workplace discrimination during the public health crisis. Participants learned what they need to consider while implementing safety practices to protect older and pregnant workers and how to protect employee privacy. You can watch the recording [here](#).

Watch: Webinar on Bulk Power and Securing the Electric Grid

Earlier today, the NAM hosted a webinar on the recently signed [Executive Order 13920](#), which directs the Department of Energy to secure our bulk power electric system. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed new weaknesses in our grid, which has prompted this action. Due to the broad definition of "bulk power," a large number of heavy industrials might be affected. To understand how you might be impacted and to access a recording of the webinar, email BulkPower@nam.org with any questions.

Please keep visiting the regularly updated nam.org/coronavirus site for the latest information,

including operational guidance, our policy plans and resources and an [updated breakdown of state and local orders](#).

If your company is looking for ways to contribute to COVID-19 relief efforts, you can connect with NAM partner [Good360](#). They help companies do good by distributing highly needed product donations to people facing challenging life circumstances—all through their global network of vetted nonprofit partners. Please reference the NAM as your source of referral so we can track the many positive contributions of our members.

Best,

Jay

President and CEO
National Association of Manufacturers