

NAM COVID-19 Update
April 4, 2020

As you may have seen reported in the news, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has begun recommending that Americans wear face coverings when in certain public settings. We wanted to provide you with some additional context as you consider what this means for you and your company:

Details on CDC Recommendations of Face Coverings and Masks

Last evening, the CDC issued new recommendations to the public and encouraged the wearing of cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>. The CDC also emphasized the importance of this new recommendation in areas where significant community-based COVID-19 transmission is high. This recommendation is considered a voluntary public health measure, and the CDC offers a primer on simple face cloths hat: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

The practice of six-foot social distancing continues to be a leading technique to slow the spread of the virus, in addition to the current interim guidance for employers and businesses offered by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>) that is updated regularly as well as the March-issued workplace guidance prepared by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>.

The CDC also notes that surgical masks and N95 respirators are critical supplies that must be reserved for the nation's health care workforce and first responders. The Department of Labor offered new guidance yesterday that requests employers "reassess their engineering controls, work practices and administrative controls to identify any changes they can make to decrease the need for N95 respirators" and lists acceptable globally sourced alternatives to the N95: <https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-04-03/enforcement-guidance-use-respiratory-protection-equipment-certified-under>.

Manufacturers are leading and undertaking a great responsibility as an essential industry. Your NAM will continue to seek answers and solutions on your behalf during this unprecedented health emergency. For more information or questions, please contact NAM Vice President of Infrastructure, Innovation and Human Resources Policy Robyn Boerstling.

President Invokes Defense Production Act for Masks and Other PPE

In another development last night, President Trump invoked the relevant provision of the Defense Production Act that allows the government to prioritize federal contracts over other contracts, in this case for N95, N99, N100, R95, R99, R100, P95, P99 and P100 respirators/masks, personal protective equipment surgical masks and PPE gloves and surgical gloves. He delegated the authority to implement this provision to the Secretary of Homeland Security. If you have questions about how this might affect your company, please contact NAM Director of Trade Facilitation Policy Ali Aafedt.

Providing Critical Information to FEMA

As I shared yesterday, Rear Admiral John Polowczyk and FEMA highly value the information on supplies that the NAM is collecting via our joint survey with the Business Roundtable. This information is helping them identify sources of critical supplies and production opportunities. If

you have not filled out the NAM–BRT survey, we hope you will do so. **Whether you have filled out similar previous surveys or not, we are asking everyone to complete [this detailed form](https://brt.nam.org/?_zs=R6Rih1&_zl=tuEe6) as soon as possible: https://brt.nam.org/?_zs=R6Rih1&_zl=tuEe6.**

The NAM has centralized key resources for small businesses, including information on loans and tax credits, here: https://www.nam.org/coronavirus/small-business-covid-19-resources/?_zs=XU3be1&_zl=3lre6. Please also keep visiting the regularly updated [nam.org/coronavirus](https://www.nam.org/coronavirus) site for the latest information, including state-specific resources, and continue to email our Response Team at responseteam@nam.org with any questions or feedback.

Best,

Jay

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