

NAM COVID-19 Update
March 31, 2020

Congress is already discussing the contents of “phase four” relief and recovery legislation. So while our focus is on the quick implementation of the “phase three” CARES Act provisions, which will be a lifeline for many employers and employees, the National Association of Manufacturers is also moving quickly so that we can achieve more progress when Congress reconvenes. It was just 22 days ago that the NAM proactively released our COVID-19 Policy Action Plan Recommendations: <https://www.nam.org/manufacturers-release-policy-action-plan-in-response-to-covid-19-7360/?stream=series-press-releases&zs=XU3be1&zl=XSF6>
We’ve already secured many of the goals outlined, and we intend on getting much more done for you.

Here are some of the other recent developments:

New Treasury Guidance on Small Business Loan Program, Employee Retention Credit

Just this afternoon, the Treasury Department issued new guidance on the CARES Act’s \$350 billion loan fund for small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply for loans through the “Paycheck Protection Program” starting April 3, while self-employed individuals and independent contractors can apply starting April 10: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP%20--%20Overview.pdf>.

More detailed information for borrowers can be found at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP%20Borrower%20Information%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf> and an application can be found here: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Paycheck-Protection-Program-Application-3-30-2020-v3.pdf>.

The Treasury Department also launched the Employee Retention Credit today, which you can learn more about at <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm962>. The Senate Finance Committee released an FAQ document on the credit: <https://www.finance.senate.gov/chairmans-news/cares-act-employee-retention-credit-faq>.

MI Responds: Helping You Fill Open Positions

The Manufacturing Institute, the workforce and education partner of the NAM, is hearing from many of you about open positions as your businesses ramp up production to meet the needs of our country’s COVID-19 response. To answer your call, the MI is tapping into its workforce development partner network to help companies fill their open positions. If your company has open positions and you would like to get the word out about these jobs, or if you have a reskilling or upskilling story you want told as you and your workforce gear up for this response, send an email to MIresponds@nam.org.

Paid Leave Requirements go into Effect Tomorrow, April 1

Starting tomorrow, April 1, businesses with fewer than 500 employees will need to provide employees with paid time off for a variety of reasons relating to COVID-19. Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, eligible employers will need to provide two weeks of paid leave for workers who are quarantined (due to federal, state or local government order or advice of a health care provider) and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis. Eligible employers will also need to provide up to 10 weeks of paid leave for workers who need to care for children whose school or child care facilities are closed. Read more about

the Department of Labor's employer requirements at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employer-paid-leave>.

Employers will have to post notice of these changes in a similar manner to other poster requirements:

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters/FFCRA_Poster_WH1422_Non-Federal.pdf.

Businesses with fewer than 50 employees and those that produce medical products or COVID-19-related medical equipment may be eligible to receive exemptions from the paid leave requirements. Read more about exemptions at

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions#56>.

Read the NAM's comments urging the DOL to quickly clarify the paid leave requirements and reduce unnecessary regulatory costs at <https://ffcra.ideascale.com/a/dtd/National-Association-of-Manufacturers-COVID-19-Online-Dialogue/979525-41081>.

NAM Monitoring Global Essential Business Guidance

In addition to our work at the state and local level, which we have shared with you, the NAM is actively monitoring essential business and critical infrastructure actions that affect our members' operations globally, with a particular focus on the importance of North American supply chains. Yesterday, Mexico issued a summary presentation with guidance regarding essential infrastructure and operations, and you can read the unofficial English translation at

http://documents.nam.org/IEA/Mexico%20Ministry%20of%20Health_Health%20Security%20Measures_March%2030%202020_Rough%20Eng%20Translation.pdf?zs=XU3be1&zl=kSFe6.

We will continue to monitor essential business and critical infrastructure actions in Canada, Mexico and globally, with regular updates to be included in the NAM's critical infrastructure guidance compendium document:

http://documents.nam.org/IEA/Mexico%20Ministry%20of%20Health_Health%20Security%20Measures_March%2030%202020_Rough%20Eng%20Translation.pdf?zs=XU3be1&zl=kSFe6.

Contact NAM Senior Director of International Economic Affairs Ken Monahan with any questions.

Recap of NAM–MLC Small and Medium-Sized Manufacturers Webinar

A recording of Friday's NAM and Manufacturing Leadership Council–hosted call with the Small Business Investor Alliance discussing the challenges facing small and medium-sized manufacturers is available at

https://players.brightcove.net/5189648661001/e6V61uh3G_default/index.html?videoId=6145800583001.

As this unprecedented and turbulent month comes to a close, it is my hope that the resources we are sharing are addressing your concerns head-on and equipping you with the timely information you need. Please continue to visit the regularly updated nam.org/coronavirus site for the latest information, including state-specific resources. And email our Response Team at responseteam@nam.org with any questions or feedback.

Best,

Jay

Jay Timmons
President and CEO
National Association of Manufacturers