



December 11, 2020

Dear Honorable Governors:

I am writing on behalf of ISSA–The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association’s more than 9,300 members across the country to ask for your assistance to ensure the entire cleaning industry supply chain is able to continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic without interruption.

Our members are on the frontlines of protecting the public health through the manufacturing of cleaning equipment, cleaning products, sanitizers, and disinfectants, as well as by providing cleaning services that protect schools, day care centers, grocery stores, medical institutions, residential care facilities, multifamily housing units, warehouses, office buildings, and other institutions.

It is imperative these essential workers in the cleaning industry have prioritized access to COVID-19 vaccines to help minimize disruptions in the supply chain of manufacturing and distributing cleaning and hygiene-related products that are critical to public health. It is equally as important that frontline workers tasked with cleaning and disinfecting also are protected. Our members are working tirelessly to help prevent the further spread of this deadly virus.

In March, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), which is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, deemed the cleaning industry as “essential.” Following are the pertinent references from CISA essential workforce guidance relevant to cleaning industry workers ([version 4.0](#)).

“Workers at manufacturers...cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies (including dispensers), sanitary goods, personal care products, pest control products, and tissue and paper towel products.” (Healthcare/Public Health)

“Workplace safety workers (i.e., workers who anticipate, recognize, evaluate, and control workplace conditions that may cause workers' illness or injury).” (Healthcare/Public Health)

“Public health and environmental health workers, such as: Workers specializing in environmental health that focus on implementing environmental controls, sanitary and infection control interventions, healthcare facility safety and emergency preparedness planning...” (Healthcare/Public Health)

“Workers supporting the sanitation and pest control of all human and animal food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail.” (Food & Agriculture)

“Workers...that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, businesses and buildings, such as hospitals and senior living facilities.” (Public Works and Infrastructure Support Services)

“Workers who support hazardous materials response and cleanup.” (Hazardous Materials)

“Workers supporting the production of protective cleaning and medical solutions, PPE, chemical consumer and institutional products, disinfectants, fragrances, and packaging that prevents the contamination of food, water, medicine, among others essential products.” (Chemical)

“Workers supporting the operations of commercial buildings that are critical to safety, security, and the continuance of essential activities, such as...janitorial personnel.” (Commercial Facilities)

“Workers who produce hygiene products.” (Hygiene Products and Services)

“Workers providing disinfection services for all essential facilities and modes of transportation and who support the sanitation of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail.” (Hygiene Products and Services)

“Support required for continuity of services, including commercial disinfectant services, janitorial and cleaning personnel, and support personnel functions that need freedom of movement to access facilities in support of front-line workers.” (Hygiene Products and Services)

“Workers supporting the production of home cleaning, pest control, and other essential products necessary to clean, disinfect, sanitize, and ensure the cleanliness of residential homes, shelters, and commercial facilities.” (Hygiene Products and Services)

“Workers supporting the production of home cleaning and pest control products.” (Hygiene Products and Services)

ISSA supports your efforts to prioritize access to COVID-19 vaccines, as well as understands and acknowledges these are difficult decisions to make. The numerous references cited above demonstrate the uniquely critical role the cleaning industry is playing in protecting the public health during this pandemic. Accordingly, we urge you to recognize the importance of the cleaning industry and its supply chain so our businesses and workers can safely continue to fight the transmission of COVID-19.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for all you are doing to protect Americans during the current national health emergency. Please do not hesitate to reach out to ISSA Director of Government Affairs John Nothdurft at johnn@issa.com or me at johnb@issa.com if you have any questions and/or if ISSA can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



John H. Barrett
Executive Director
ISSA—The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association