



Dear Governor XX:

The U.S. chemical industry plays a vital role in the health, safety and well-being of Americans during this time of crisis as we continue to fight the largest public health emergency in the history of our nation. We provide many of the essential inputs needed to produce products that are critical in the fight against COVID-19. Among many others, those include personal protective gear for front line workers; medical equipment needed to save lives; chemical biocides and disinfectants; refrigerants and dry ice, and plastic packaging materials that help prevent the contamination of food and other consumer products.

Recognizing this, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) designated the chemical industry as Essential Critical Workers as outlined in CDC and DHS Guidance on this subject¹. In doing so, the Agencies identified the chemical industry and its employees as critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security.

Throughout the pandemic, states have relied on this guidance to help ensure that the supply of critical products and services can continue to flow throughout the supply chain unimpeded.

With the history-making production and distribution of a vaccine now underway, states have rightly, and in alignment with CDC guidance, prioritized health care personnel and residents and staff of nursing homes, to be among the first to receive the vaccine. We urge you continue to adopt the CDC guidance on vaccine distribution and rely on the sound definitions of essential critical infrastructure workforce offered by the DHS, as it applies to essential workers second in line, after those serving on the front lines and those most vulnerable among us. These terms are comprehensive and well understood by the chemical manufacturing community. Moreover, the DHS explanations of industry sectors that comprise the nation's critical infrastructure can be applied uniformly in various emergency and response circumstances determined by states and their elected leaders.

Without clear and consistent definitions around essential employees and essential businesses for vaccine distribution, needless confusion and misallocations of scarce resources could result, harming public health and safety.

Under your leadership throughout the pandemic, essential critical infrastructure and its workforce continued to operate. We know that many more decisions of critical import have and will continue to be made in the coming days and weeks. We ask now that you once again recognize the criticality of the chemical industry and the role that it plays in protecting the lives of all Americans by adopting the CDC and DHS guidance as a framework for identifying essential facilities, supply chains and their workers to ensure that employees in the chemical industry have access to vaccines when your state is ready to deploy larger-scale vaccinations.

We look forward to working with you, so together we can lead our economic recovery and national renewal.

¹ COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) October 29, 2020 Version 2.0.

DHS Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce; Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response, Version 4.0, August 18, 2020



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CJahn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Jahn
President & CEO
American Chemistry Council