

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

During this ongoing public health crisis, manufacturers continue to do everything possible to ensure the health and safety of millions of workers around the country. Unprecedented investments have been made to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our workplaces, and manufacturers have committed to doing our part to prevent community spread from affecting workers and facilities and to keep the economy going. The men and women of our manufacturing operation, as well as their families and the communities that support them, have been resolute in the performance of their work at the highest level throughout.

For that reason, as states receive vaccine allocations in the coming weeks and consider CDC guidance on vaccine distribution, we recommend that the decisions to be made rely on the sound definitions of essential critical infrastructure workforce offered by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. These terms are comprehensive and well understood by the manufacturing community. Moreover, the CISA explanations of the 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. Manufacturing plants are integral to virtually every critical infrastructure supply chain.

As the nation begins vaccinations, we are requesting that you consider the CISA guidance as a framework for identifying essential facilities, supply chains and their workers to ensure that employees tied to our manufacturing sector have access to vaccines when the state is ready to deploy larger-scale vaccinations.

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. We appreciate your urgent attention to our request to keep box manufacturing workers healthy and safe during this national crisis—so that together we can lead our economic recovery and national renewal.

Sincerely,