

National Association of Manufacturers

July 22, 2020

The NAM has prioritized securing liability protections for manufacturers subject to baseless COVID-19-related lawsuits. Our plan and advocacy campaign has set the stage for congressional action, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) addressed it on the Senate floor today as he spoke about upcoming COVID-19 legislation, [saying](#):

“The American people will not see their historic recovery efforts gobbled up by trial lawyers who are itching to follow this pandemic with a second epidemic of frivolous lawsuits. . . .Gross negligence will still be actionable, but we’re creating a safe harbor for institutions that make a good-faith effort to follow the guidelines available to them.”

We will continue to advocate these protections, and you can expect more from us on the grassroots level and across the media landscape.

Facial Covering PSA: The Other Spread

With COVID-19 cases spiking across the country and some hospitals overwhelmed, the need for more Americans to wear face coverings in public spaces grows more urgent by the hour. To protect lives and keep the economy running, we are continuing our PSA campaign. Our latest ad, [“The Other Spread,”](#) dispels common myths about the use of facial coverings. I hope you will join me in promoting the ad on your channels and with your communities using the hashtags #creatorsrespond and #wearamask.

Creators’ Toolkit

Many companies continue to step up and revamp their operations to produce personal protective equipment. The NAM has compiled a toolkit to help your company navigate available PPE production resources. These include funding sources, government procurement contracts, operational guidance and more. You can view the full toolkit [here](#).

R&D Investment for an American Recovery

With manufacturers leading all other sectors when it comes to research and development spending, the NAM has called on congressional leaders to include R&D tax policies that can aid the nation’s recovery as part of additional COVID-19 legislation. Our [“American Renewal Action Plan”](#) calls for expanding the R&D tax credit and reversing an upcoming tax change that would make R&D more expensive in the United States. You can read additional details about our efforts to protect R&D spending [here](#).

Manufacturers Claim Victory for Security

Yesterday afternoon, the NAM secured a key win when the House followed the Senate’s lead and passed [S. 4148](#), a bill to reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program just days before expiration. We called for this in our [“COVID-19 Policy Action Plan Recommendations”](#) and led the charge advocating for a long-term, multiyear reauthorization of this critical security program. The security program helps mitigate, prevent and protect against terrorist exploitation at manufacturing facilities nationwide, many of which are providing critical health supplies. You can click [here](#) to learn more about efforts on this issue.

Federal Government PPE Gown Solicitations

The Defense Logistics Agency is looking to purchase reusable and disposable isolation gowns

and disposable surgical gowns from manufacturers to refresh the Strategic National Stockpile. Manufacturers interested in these potential contracts can learn more at beta.sam.gov and the [DLA Internet Bid Board System](#). These will close on Aug. 3 at 10:00 p.m. EDT, and you can view the solicitations directly at the following links:

- [SPE1C1-20-R-0137 Disposable Surgical Gown Solicitation](#)
- [SPE1C1-20-R-0138 Disposable Isolation Gown Solicitation](#)
- [SPE1C1-20-R-0139 Reusable Isolation Gown Solicitation](#)

For questions, you may reach out to the DLA point of contact listed in each solicitation.

Thursday Webinar: Fighting Counterfeit Products in a Pandemic

The NAM this week will be launching a major push against counterfeiting, which is a serious problem during normal times, and an even more deadly problem during this pandemic. You can join us Thursday, July 23, at 9:00 a.m. EDT for a briefing with NAM Senior Vice President of Policy and Government Relations Aric Newhouse moderating a conversation with Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Andrei Iancu and Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Bob Menendez (D-NJ). You can click [here](#) to register, and if you have any questions, you can email NAM Vice President of Government Relations [Jordan Stoick](#).

Upcoming MLC COVID-19 Webinar

The Manufacturing Leadership Council continues to hold weekly virtual meetings throughout July, featuring insights into how manufacturers have adjusted to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can join the MLC next Tuesday, July 28, at 11:00 a.m. EDT for a webinar on “Learning for the Future: A New Phase of Manufacturing Transformation.” This webinar will include exclusive insights on the future of manufacturing from leading members of the MLC’s Board of Governors, including IBM Vice President and Chief Supply Chain Officer Ron Castro, Lockheed Martin Senior Fellow of Aeronautics and Production Operations Dr. Don Kinard and Virtex Enterprises Founder and CEO Brad Heath. You can click [here](#) to register.

Please keep visiting the regularly updated nam.org/coronavirus site for the latest information, including operational guidance, our policy plans and resources and an [updated breakdown of state and local orders](#).

Best,

Jay

President and CEO
National Association of Manufacturers

If you’ve found this to be an important resource at this time, please forward to your colleagues so they can [sign up](#).

We always welcome our affiliated associations sharing NAM work product. If you do share this information, our General Counsel advises the following: You MUST credit the NAM and maintain NAM branding on any materials you share with your members, clients or other stakeholders. You MAY NOT excerpt from NAM materials without proper attribution. Any unauthorized use of our work product will result in your removal from our distribution lists.