April 1, 2020

To: PMA Florida Members

On Wednesday, April 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued an executive order to slow the spread of COVID-19 within Florida by requiring all residents to stay in their homes unless participating in essential activities or obtaining or providing essential services. The stay-at-home order takes effect on April 3, 2020 and remains in effect until April 30, 2020.

Only businesses deemed essential services in the state can continue to operate. Under the order, Florida uses a federal definition of critical infrastructures to determine essential businesses. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) developed a list of essential critical infrastructure to determine the sectors, sub-sectors, segments, or critical functions that should continue normal operations.

The CISA list includes Critical Manufacturing as an Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce and classifies workers necessary for the manufacture of “materials and products needed for medical supply chains, and for supply chains associated with transportation, energy, communications, information technology, food and agriculture, chemical manufacturing, nuclear facilities, wood products, commodities used as fuel for power generation facilities, the operation of dams, water and wastewater treatment, processing and reprocessing of solid waste, emergency services, and the defense industrial base. Additionally, workers needed to maintain the continuity of these manufacturing functions and associated supply chains, and workers necessary to maintain a manufacturing operation in warm standby” as essential, as well as “workers who produce or manufacture parts or equipment that supports continued operations for any essential services” (page 13, Critical Manufacturing). Manufacturers supporting the defense supply chain are also deemed essential (page 14, Defense Industrial Base).

The order also incorporates a list of essential retail and commercial businesses propounded by Miami-Dade County in their Declaration of Local State of Emergency. The declaration specifies 33 essential retail and commercial businesses. Included in the list are “Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate and who do not interact with the general public” (Page 26, Subsection o) and “Factories, manufacturing facilities, bottling plants, or other industrial uses” (Page 27, Subsection ee).

To provide needed assistance for small businesses in the state, the Small Business Administration has approved a request allowing Florida small businesses disrupted by the coronavirus to apply for low-interest, long-term disaster loans of up to $2 million. The Economic Injury Disaster Loans can be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills by businesses suffering substantial economic injury.
The situation is fluid and, while PMA is a national organization, we are mobilizing all of our resources to assist our members throughout the country. We’ve also created a coronavirus resource center on the PMA website, which is being regularly updated to provide members with important information and links to government resources.

Please feel free to reach out to us at any time with questions.