April 1, 2020

To: PMA North Carolina Members

On Friday, March 27, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued a Stay-at-Home order for all individuals in the State of North Carolina. The order directs all residents to stay at home for 30 days beginning on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. unless engaged in essential activities. The order prohibits the gathering of any kind of more than 10 people.

The order specifies 30 Essential Businesses and Operations that may continue to operate with employees reporting for work. Included in the list is “Supplies for COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations. Businesses that sell, manufacture, support, or supply other COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations with the service or materials necessary to operate” (page 7, subsection 21) and “Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries. Manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services” for essential businesses and industries (page 8, subsection 26). The order also includes “Defense and military contractors that develop products, processes, equipment, technology, and related services that serve the United States military, national defense, and national security interests” (page 8, subsection 27).

The order also incorporates 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 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).

Businesses that can conduct operations while adhering to social-distancing requirements may also continue to operate as long as those requirements are maintained between and among its employees, and between and among employees and customers except at point of sale or purchase.
If you believe that your company should be designated as an Essential Business but is not covered under the executive order or the CISA List, you can submit a request to be considered as Essential. Any business that has made a request can continue to operate until a final decision on the request is made.

To provide needed assistance for small businesses in the state, the Small Business Administration has approved a request allowing North Carolina 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.