

Food and Beverage Trade Association CEOs Group

STRONGLY ENCOURAGE A WHITE HOUSE POINT PERSON FOR THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY

Essential components of the value chain to ensure an uninterrupted supply of food/products to consumers:

- Continuity of waste management services, especially if provided by local government or third parties
- Water/sewer/utilities/electricity/gas
- Telecommunications/internet/wifi services
- Trucking
 - Inbound and Outbound transportation routes must not be impeded due to containment or quarantines
 - Need local municipalities to lift delivery curfews so trucks can deliver when possible
- Railroad
- Ports must remain open and functional for exports to avoid products backing up in the system and for critical delivery of inputs to food production facilities. Inputs include ingredients, sanitation products, packaging, equipment, tools, etc.
- Border inspection facilities (Canada/Mexico) must prioritize entry of foodstuffs and have mechanism in place to allow drivers and vehicles expedited screening and entry
- Need mechanism to secure rapid access to maintenance services of all critical infrastructures, especially if those services are external to the food production/distribution facility
- Labor must have expedited access to food production/distribution facilities, even if that means passing through/into quarantined areas
- Food production facilities must be encouraged to continue operations if located in quarantined/lockdown areas
 - Need guidance to standardize safety of operations and reassure workers and consumers of safety of operations
- Food production facilities must have continued access to inputs including ingredients, cleaning/sanitizing products, normal food safety testing products, and packaging supplies; the facilities that produce these products must be allowed to continue operations with some operational flexibility to increase production while ensuring food safety
- Distribution facilities that must continue to operate as critical infrastructure in the food system include warehouses, retailers, e-commerce distribution, etc.
- Consistent coverage from inspectors and other government representatives essential to the production or movement of food
- Priority access to refrigerated containers and trailers
- Priority access to pallets