

Clarifying Food Worker Status as Part of Critical Infrastructure Sector

March 18, 2020

Dear State and Local Regulatory Partners,

We are aware of a recently reported incident where food processing facility workers were stopped on the way to their jobs due to curfew/shelter-in-place orders. We are working with state and federal officials to ensure that law enforcement agencies are made aware that human and animal food workers are part of the critical infrastructure and must be allowed to travel to and from their jobs. We are also working with food industry stakeholders to ensure their food workers have appropriate identification.

We would appreciate your help, within your respective agencies and jurisdictions, to ensure awareness, coordination and communication with appropriate law enforcement agencies, state/local emergency operation centers, and with your human and animal food industry stakeholders, so that food and beverage employees, who are considered part of a critical business sector, can make it to their workplace.

If your stakeholders are experiencing issues regarding supply chains, delivery of goods, or business continuity, please contact the FEMA National Business Emergency Operations Center at NBEOC@fema.dhs.gov. This is a 24/7 operation and they can assist in directing your inquiry to the proper contact.

Thank you,

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