

Chris Jahn  
President & CEO



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Dear Mr. President and Governors,

We commend your leadership to help limit the spread of the Coronavirus during this uncertain and rapidly-changing time. Members of the American Chemistry Council, the primary trade association representing chemical manufacturers in the United States, have embraced guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and multiple governmental authorities to undertake social distancing, enable telework and practice good hygiene.

The deployment of extraordinary measures is prudent given the risk of widespread infection. In some locations this has included encouragement or directives from government leaders to limit non-essential business activity including the operation of restaurants, service providers and some retail establishments to keep both employees and possible customers safe. While many of these limitations are currently in the best interest of public health, **it is essential that key industries and sectors, including the chemical manufacturing sector, are able to maintain operations throughout this challenging time.** Many ACC member companies have instituted telework policies to reduce the number of employees traveling to work and interacting with co-workers. However, the operation of manufacturing plants cannot be done remotely and requires the day-to-day presence of highly trained personnel. This also includes ensuring access to critical supplies and transportation systems so our industry can continue to produce and deliver essential products.

The U.S. business of chemical manufacturing is a \$553 billion enterprise that touches nearly all aspects of our nation's economy. The chemical industry supports a vast supply chain. In fact 96 percent of all manufactured goods rely on chemistry. Because the business of chemistry is so fundamental to our nation's economy and to the continued operation of multiple other sectors, **the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has classified the Chemical Sector as a Critical Infrastructure Sector.**

The role of chemistry is particularly important today as chemicals enable countless products that will be needed to support good hygiene and treat those who are infected with the Coronavirus in the weeks and months ahead.

For example, chemical biocides and disinfectants are the active ingredients in cleaning products that eliminate bacterial and viruses on a personal, household and industrial scale. Single use plastic products and packaging help prevent contamination of food, medicine, personal care and medical products and help prevent person-to-person transmission of disease-causing microorganisms. Personal hygiene products including diapers, soaps, detergents, toothpastes and other antiseptics such as isopropyl alcohol and hydrogen peroxide are all reliant on chemicals and chemical production. Chemicals are necessary to fertilize and protect crops that comprise our nation's food supply and chlorine chemistry is essential to protecting our nation's drinking water.

Plastics and chemicals are vital to keeping medical environments and treatments sanitary, safe and effective. For example, polycarbonate is necessary to produce syringes, surgical instruments, and IV components. Biocides and chlorine are needed to disinfect surfaces and keep drinking water clean. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is used in medical tubing, blood and IV bags. Polypropylene is a key component



of medical-grade personal protective equipment including masks, gowns and goggles. And a range of chemicals serve as ingredients in over-the-counter and prescription medications.

All segments of society have a role to play to help limit the spread of Coronavirus and protect public health, especially those who are most vulnerable. The chemical industry can make a valuable contribution by applying prudent measures to prevent the spread of infection at our sites, while also maintaining production. We would be happy to provide additional information about our efforts to protect the health of our employees and communities while also continuing to produce essential materials to the American medical community and the American public during this trying time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Jahn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Jahn  
President & CEO

