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NFI Members: Various governments and agencies are providing a seemingly overwhelming amount of information to various communities about COVID-19. NFI will daily summarize these and provide you a sifted situation report at about 800 each weekday evening and once over the weekend.

Please let us know if this meets your need or what information would help your business in this situation. Please also let us know if you do NOT want to receive these updates.

John Connelly
President

26 March 2020
NFI COVID-19 Sitrep #6

Suggested Actions and Question of the Day Below are links to actions government agencies suggest individuals or companies take or questions NFI has received re COVID-19:

1. Because all focus is on the current COVID-19 emergency, will FDA delay the July 2020 compliance date for small businesses implementing their intentional adulteration mitigation strategies?

Answer: FDA officials are committed to providing regulatory flexibility as necessary during the emergency. Once the agency addresses immediate needs, such flexibility with label requirements for food service products being diverted to retail sales, they will address other regulatory issues. (NFI acknowledges that is a [squishy answer](#), but will keep track of FDA on the issue.)

Request for Member Input or Advocacy Action Below are requests of NFI members for inputs:

1. The sixteen critical infrastructure sectors (including food) and DHS are working on a letter to address the access for workers driving in curfewed or lock down areas. The desire is for a uniform document to identify essential critical infrastructure workers. Our [preference is that governors' reference or adopt the DHS-CISA list in their proclamations](#). NFI asks that if you have contacts in your Governor's office, that you ask she or he to adopt the DHS list.

Public Health and Technical Documents Below are links to summaries of Administration decisions and developing legislation

Administration decisions and developing legislation.

1. FDA is [providing temporary flexibility](#) regarding nutrition labeling of food labeled for food service being diverted to retail sales. In the guidance document, FDA states that the agency “does not intend to object to the sale of packaged food that lacks a Nutrition Facts label” ... provided the label does not have any nutrition claims and that all other required information (statement of identity, ingredient statement, name and place of business, net quantity of contents and required allergen labeling) is on the label. This is the result of a food coalition letter that NFI was instrumental in drafting.
2. The Department of Labor Published [Required Poster and Additional Guidance Regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) (FFCRA)
3. DHS [extended the deadline for REAL ID](#) enforcement to 1 October 2021.
4. The Environmental Protection Agency has issued [temporary enforcement discretion guidelines applicable](#) to manufacturing and other facilities with EPA interaction.
5. State Department released new [guidelines temporarily modifying the H2 visa process](#), especially focused on returning H2 workers.

NFI Tools for Members: Below are tools or programs available to NFI members:

1. Datassentials, who many of you may recall from the GSMC meeting in Orlando, is developing twice weekly [reports on eating trends and ideas for restaurants](#) to make it thru COVID-19. There may be helpful tips to help your customers in this presentation.
2. More than 95 NFI members participated in a webinar today focused on the business impacts of COVID, including overlaying production areas with areas of disease concentration, logistics challenges, and shifts in supply. NFI will continue this series next Tuesday, 31 March. The 90 minute session is free for NFI members. Look for more details Friday.
3. NFI and [Holland & Knight](#) will host a webinar Tuesday, 31 March 1200 n – 100 pm (eastern) for NFI members to understand how to access the resources available thru the CARES Act. [Register for the CARES Act Implementation for NFI Members.](#)

Media Report: Below are links to any major news stories about seafood and COVID.

1. None to report

Developing Administration and State Actions and Legislation Below are links to summaries or analysis of Administration decisions and developing or passed legislation.

1. The Senate pass early Thursday morning a \$2 trillion economic stimulus CARES package. A Holland & Knight [summary of the bill](#) shows its breadth. The bills also include relief for “[fishery participants.](#)”
NFI is working with Holland & Knight to develop an implementation webinar for NFI members to understand how to access these resources (see Tools for NFI Members).
2. There remains confusion on possible deferment (not elimination) of payment of certain duties or tariffs:

- a. CBP announced last week that “Due to the effect COVID-19 is having on the trade industry, CBP” is [accepting requests for duty-payment extensions](#)
- b. Chairman Chuck Grassley (Iowa) and other Senate Finance Committee members requested President Trump [consider modifications and deferrals for certain payments of duties](#), to create more liquidity for companies.
- c. Steel companies, unions, and the President’s trade advisor [have reacted coolly to the idea](#).

NFI suggests waiting until the CBP Federal Register is issued before requesting deferral, as there is obvious debate in the Administration about this idea. NFI is in contact with CBP staff about the matter.

- 3. Miller Strategies, an NFI consultant, provides a [daily summary of White House, Congressional, and political updates](#).

World Health Organization, and Federal and State Government Reports Below are links to various daily updates from WHO, the White House, and other sources:

- 1. [Department of Homeland Security COVID Sitrep 24 March 2020](#)
- 2. [White House Daily Situation Report 25 March 2020](#)

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Other Governments Actions Below are links to nations’ actions:

- 1. None to report

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Previously Reported Government or Industry Actions NFI will retain links to particularly important government decisions and actions that were previously reported to you, noted below:

- 1. The Food and Beverage Industry Alliance, of which NFI is member, has prepared a comprehensive document which outlines steps for when an employee tests positive for COVID-19 or [when an employee or visitor has been in close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19](#). The document also outlines cleaning and disinfection guidelines.
- 2. An [FDA website providing basic information](#) regarding food safety and COVID-19, as updated on 24 March. Importantly, the information has suggestions on how you can help plant workers who must operate near other workers protect themselves.
- 3. [Department of Homeland Security: Memo on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response](#) Randy Rhodes of Harvest Select graciously shared an [example of how his company provides documentation](#).
- 4. AFDO (Association of Food and Drug Officials) has a [Coronavirus Resource](#) page which provides links to State specific information.
- 5. The National Governors Association’s [“Coronavirus: What You Need to Know”](#) webpage which provides current information on actions that States and Territories are taking to address COVID-19.
- 6. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has developed the website: [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): CFIA information for industry](#), which is

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): CFIA information for industry](#) which is updated frequently

7. The World Trade Organization asks [countries to report COVID 19 -related trade actions](#).
8. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has issued [certain waivers for CDL, CLP, and CMV requirements](#).
9. The FMCSA also [issued an Emergency Declaration](#) to provide regulatory relief for CMV operations providing direct assistance in support of emergency COVID relief efforts, including for the transportation of food for emergency restocking distribution centers or stores. Included on the FMSCA website is a list of [FAQs](#).
10. FEMA has created a [Coronavirus Rumor Control](#) website to provide a trusted page for COVID-19 information
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