April 13, 2020

I hope everyone had a peaceful Easter and Passover Sunday.

AEM continues to press forward on behalf of our member companies in a number of ways, but today we want to highlight several new resources, best practices, and stories that can help equipment manufacturers keep the doors open during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have an exclusive invitation for member companies to participate in a virtual event with members of the Problem Solvers Caucus, and encourage you to join us as we discuss how to stop the virus, save lives, and get Americans back to work.

Following up on last week's update, we have specific details about the Main Street Lending Program, which implements separate provisions of the CARES Act authorizing the establishment of an emergency loan program for midsize businesses and of a main street lending program that establishes new loan facilities for small and midsize businesses with up to 10,000 employees or with revenues less than $2.5 billion.

And in case you missed it in today's *AEM Advisor*, we are profiling Vermeer Corporation and what they are doing to make a positive impact on their community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All of this and much more in today's update:

3 Ways Manufacturers Can Continue Production During the COVID-19 Pandemic

We asked Bernard J. Bobber, a shareholder at Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C., to share ideas about how manufacturers can continue to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ogletree Deakins' Manufacturing Industry Group recently conducted a Manufacturers' Roundtable Discussion and this article compiles some of the ideas and practices identified in that Roundtable discussion.

AEM and No Labels Present: *Congress Comes to You* Virtual Event

AEM is pleased to offer our member companies an exclusive invitation to a virtual event tomorrow, Tuesday, April 14 pm at 8 pm ET, hosted by No Labels. The event, called *Congress Comes to You*, which will be hosted through ZOOM, will bring solutions-oriented Democrats AND Republicans from Congress right into your living room for a real conversation about how to stop this virus, save lives, and get Americans back to work. The lawmakers participating in tomorrow's virtual event understand the importance of bipartisanship in helping equipment manufacturers and the U.S. economy recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and AEM is working closely with them top advance bipartisan solutions. Sign up here.

The Latest on the Main Street Lending Program

On the heels of last week's announcement by the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and the Federal Reserve Board (Federal Reserve) of several additional initiatives, including the Main Street Lending Program, aimed at promoting maximum employment and stabilizing the economy, AEM staff continues to survey the Treasury and the Federal Reserve on the details about how they will help equipment manufacturers that do not qualify for federal COVID-19 assistance through the U.S. Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. AEM staff has compiled confirmed specifics and resources about the Main Street Lending Program in this slide deck, which will be updated as more information and details become available in the days and weeks ahead.

Vermeer Focuses on Making a Positive Impact During COVID-19 Crisis

"The whole world is facing this [pandemic], and it's our job to stay focused on where we can make an impact, along with abiding by the guidelines that are out there." In today's *AEM Advisor*, Vermeer president and CEO Jason Andringa tells AEM how he is reacting to COVID-19, both in the workplace to keep his employees safe and in the community to help those on the frontline.

ICYMI: Listen to the AEM Webinar on the Paycheck Protection Program

Last week, AEM hosted a webinar for member companies on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and tax relief provisions in the CARES Act, featuring Doug Criscitello, Managing Director, Public Sector, Grant Thornton, LLP, and Omair Taher, Senior Association, Washington National Tax Office, Grant Thornton, LLP. Messrs Criscitello and Taher walked through the eligibility and application requirements of these programs and answered questions from member companies.

If you were unable to join last week, you can now access a recording of the webinar. You can also access both the slides on SBA loan assistance and the slides on the tax relief provisions presentations in our growing library of resources.

OSHA Releases Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19

To help companies respond in the event of coronavirus in the workplace, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued guidance developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). The guidance provides practical attention for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and contains information on safe work practices and appropriate personal protective equipment based on the risk level of exposure.

OSHA Clarifies Workplace COVID-19 Recordkeeping Requirements

In response to AEM's request for additional guidance in a March 27 letter, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has provided more information on recordkeeping requirements of workplace COVID-19 cases.

Under the recordkeeping requirements, COVID-19 is a recordable illness and employers are responsible for recording cases of COVID-19, if the case: (1) Is confirmed as a COVID-19 illness; (2) Is work-related as defined by 29 CFR 1904.5; and (3) Involves one or more of the general recording criteria in 29 CFR 1904.7, such as medical treatment beyond first aid or days away from work.

In areas where there is ongoing community transmission, employers may have difficulty making determinations about whether workers who contracted COVID-19 did so due to exposures at work.
Accordingly, until further notice, OSHA will not enforce its recordkeeping requirements to require these employers to make work-relatedness determinations for COVID-19 cases, except where: (1) There is objective evidence that a COVID-19 case may be work-related; and (2) The evidence was reasonably available to the employer. Visit OSHA's COVID-19 website for additional information.

Convening of Multistate Working Group for Reopening Commerce

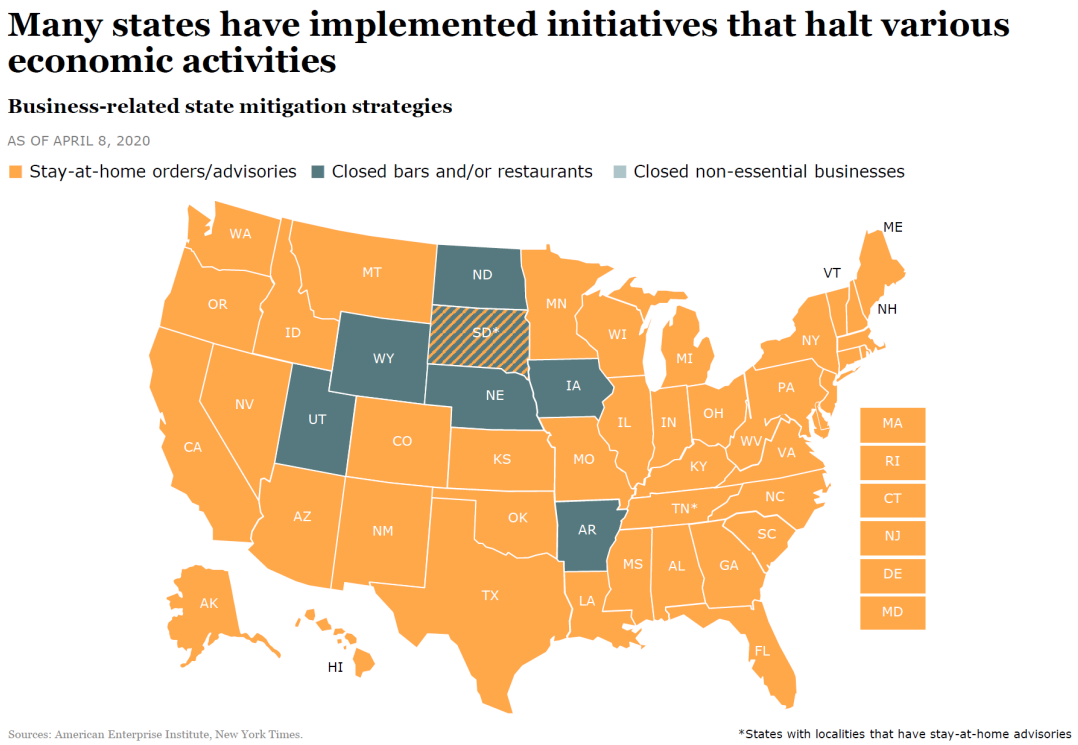
The Governors of Connecticut, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island held a joint press conference today to announce the convening of a multistate working group to develop a plan for reopening commerce as the COVID-19 curve flattens. The working group will comprise of a Public Health Official, Economic Development Official, and the Governor's Chief of Staff from each participating state. Members of the working group are expected to share key health and economic impact data for their state, so as to ensure regional harmony for businesses. AEM will engage with the working group to express the importance for a strategic and well-planned reopening approach.

State Activities

AEM has been monitoring activities taken by Governors as they continue to issue closure orders and other guidance, and we are in close contact with their staff to make the case that our industry should be deemed "essential."

Notable for today's update is that the Governors of Alaska and Vermont have extended the duration of the previous stay at home order, the Governor of Utah announced a travel declaration for all travels into Utah, and the Governor of New York issued new safety protocols for all essential businesses. The map below summarizes each state's status. For all of the latest information, please visit our dedicated state by state tracker.

Map as of April 8. (no new updates)



Canada Activities

Over the weekend, Parliament passed the new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, C-14 (the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2*). The new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) provides a 75% wage subsidy to eligible employers for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020.

We continue to update our resources on Canadian activities on AEM's COVID-19 resources page. You can also click here for the latest updates from Ottawa and all the provinces.

Do you have questions or need to get a hold of AEM's Advocacy Team? E-mail our Response Team at responseteam@aem.org with any questions or feedback.

As always, if you have any questions about AEM's ongoing efforts, need assistance with a specific issue, or would like to share how the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic is impacting your business, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at keideberg@aem.org.

Best,
-Kip

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