

# GCCA Update on COVID-19

June 25, 2020





Phone lines are muted throughout the broadcast.

Please ask questions using the "Questions" panel in your **GoTo**Webinar toolbar.

We will hold questions until the end of the webinar and will answer as many questions as time permits.

This session is being recorded and will be made available to all members following the broadcast.





## **Speakers and Moderator**

### Lowell Randel

Vice President, Government and Legal Affairs Global Cold Chain Alliance



## Erin Grady Manager, Education and Knowledge Management Global Cold Chain Alliance



Shane Jacques Manager, Training and WFLO Institute Global Cold Chain Alliance



## Agenda

- Regulatory and Governmental Updates
- GCCA Recovery Guide and Resources
- Upcoming Events
- Q&A



## Next COVID Relief Package

- Consensus that there needs to be another economic relief package
- House passed its version in May
- Senate action expected in July goal to complete before August recess
- Key issues being debated:
  - Liability protection
  - Support for essential workers
  - Unemployment/back to work payments
  - Other stimulus measures



# OSHA Releases Guidance on Returning to Work

- Released June 18, 2020
- This guidance is not a standard or regulation, and it creates no new legal obligations
- Includes information on
  - Hazard Assessment
  - Hygiene
  - Social Distancing
  - Identification and Isolation of Sick Employees
  - Return to Work After Illness
    or Isolation



# Virginia Department of Labor and Industry to Release Coronavirus Safety Rules

- First state in the US to propose such rules for all businesses
- Board voted to move forward on June 24<sup>th</sup>
- However they did not approve the proposed language provided to the Board
- They will be meeting again to consider exact language
- Under the current draft, companies would be required to implement rules to protect workers from infection
  - Policed by state inspectors with fines up to \$124,000 and closure in severe cases
- Likely to require:
  - Employers to develop policies for workers dealing with coronavirus-like symptoms, while prohibiting those workers from showing up to work
  - Companies to notify workers of possible exposure to infected co-workers within 24 hours
  - Physical distancing as well as sanitation, disinfection and hand-washing INST procedures

WFLO

## US Centers for Disease Control Releases Tiered Testing Strategy

- This testing strategy is a risk-based approach to testing co-workers of a person confirmed to have COVID-19 in a high-density critical infrastructure workplace
- Testing and isolation should happen for workers in tier 1. Workers in tier 2 and 3 should be screened and monitored for symptoms.
  - Tier 1: people shown to have close contact with the infected person as well as people who share their area during the same shift or overlapping shifts
  - Tier 2: workers on the same shift but in different areas of the facility
  - Tier 3: all other workers



## SBA and Treasury Announce New EZ and Revised Full Forgiveness Applications for the Paycheck Protection Program

- Released on June 17, 2020
- The EZ application requires fewer calculations and less documentation for eligible borrowers. Details regarding the applicability of these provisions are available in the instructions to the new EZ application form.
- Applies to borrowers that
  - Did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%, and did not reduce the number or hours of their employees; OR
  - Experienced reductions in business activity as a result of health directives related to COVID-19, and did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%; OR
  - Are self-employed and have no employees

## IRS Guidance for Employers on Leave-based Donation Programs during COVID

- Notice 2020-46: cash payments employers make to charitable organizations that provide relief to victims of the COVID-19 pandemic in exchange for sick, vacation or personal leave which their employees forgo will not be treated as compensation.
- Employers may deduct these cash payments as a business expense or as a charitable contribution deduction if the employer otherwise meets the respective requirements of either section.
- Notice 2020-46: provides further details for employers with leave donation programs.



## GCCA Signs Enhanced ERTC Coalition Letter

- Written to show strong support of the Jumpstarting Our Businesses' Success Credit (JOBS Credit) Act of 2020 (H.R. 6776)
- JOBS Credit Act would include a number of policy enhancements, such as:
  - Expansion of credit percentage from 50% to 80%
  - Increase in the per-employee limitation from \$10k to \$15k per quarter
  - Increasing the number of employees to be considered a large employer
  - A phased-in credit allowing employers with more than a 20% decline in gross receipts to be eligible for a portion of the credit
  - Improved coordination between the ERTC and the Paycheck Protection Program so employers can be eligible for both programs, but with guardrails in place to prevent "double dipping."



## Vaccine Priority Letter

- GCCA joined food industry coalition in requesting priority access (behind healthcare and high-risk populations) to vaccines when they become available
- Important that food industry has access to vaccine to ensure continuity of food supply
- Also suggests distribution should be coordinated by federal government (as opposed to leaving it to the states)



# China Increasing Scrutiny of Imports for COVID

- Virus spike in Beijing food market has led China to take actions on some imports
- Testing imported food for potential COVID contamination
- Requiring/requesting exporters to validate their efforts on COVID
- Restricting some facilities that have had high levels of COVID infection



## **USDA/FDA Joint Statement**

"The United States understands the concerns of consumers here domestically and around the world who want to know that producers, processors and regulators are taking every necessary precaution to prioritize food safety especially during these challenging times. However, efforts by some countries to restrict global food exports related to COVID-19 transmission are not consistent with the known science of transmission."

"There is no evidence that people can contract COVID-19 from food or from food packaging. The U.S. food safety system, overseen by our agencies, is the global leader in ensuring the safety of our food products, including product for export."

# **US Immigration Proclamation**

- Released June 22, 2020 by President Trump
- Suspends Entry of Certain H, J, and L Nonimmigrants until December 31, 2020
- Applies to individuals who:
  - are outside the United States on the effective date of the proclamation
  - do not have a nonimmigrant visa that is valid on the effective date of the proclamation
  - do not have an official travel document other than a visa (such as a transportation letter, an appropriate boarding foil, or an advance parole document) that is valid on the effective date of the proclamation

## Excludes Food Supply Chain

• Awaiting more details on exclusion



## **USMEF Exporter Training Webinars**

- Offered free to GCCA members
- USMEF is planning to host a series of training webinars for exporters covering a range of topics aimed at giving companies and their staff members a better understanding of the export process
- The first training will be on Friday, June 26 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern time



## GCCA Resource: COVID-19 Recovery Guide

- Follow up to GCCA COVID-19 Rapid Response Guide
- Version 2 released June 22, 2020
- Guides businesses through two stages of recovery:
  - Bringing your workforce back on-site
  - Ensuring continued safety and well-being



## New In COVID-19 Recovery Guide Version 2

- OSHA/US Department of Labor Guidance on Returning to Work
- Government of Canada's PPE Supply Hub
- OSHA/US Department of Labor FAQ on Cloth Face Coverings
- OSHA Europe's Safe Workplace Resources
- Resuming Essential Work Travel

## Bringing Your Workforce Back On-Site



Global Cold Chain Alliance: COVID-19 Recovery Guide Version 2 Updated June 22, 2020



- BacktoWorkSafely.org
- Cushman & Wakefield
- Dow "Return to Work Playbook"
- FMI– The Food Industry Association
- Small Business Legislative Council



# **Ensuring Continued Safety and Well-Being**



- Hand Sanitizer
- Sourcing PPE
- Maintaining PPE
- Temperature Screening
- Food Industry Protocols
- Cleaning Supplies and Vendors
- Labor and Workforce Solutions



## **GCCA** Resources

- WFLO Scientific Advisory Council
- GCCA Online Communities

#### What is the urgency of your request? \*

- Orgent
- Somewhat Urgent
- Not Urgent

Please describe your inquiry with as much detail as possible. \*

3PL Supply Chain Forum Settings

- **Community Home** 
  - Discussion
- Library 31
- Members 7.2K

Sack to discussions

### What are your questions about COVID-19?

Catharine Perry yesterday > You might have seen the GCCA member email that went out today about what the as

1. What are your questions about COVID-19?



## **COVID-19 Business Impact Survey**



- Short survey launched on April 28<sup>th</sup> closed on May 11<sup>th</sup>
- First of its kind research into the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the cold chain industry
- Full report is available on the GCCA website
- Thank you for your participation!

## GCCA Virtual Policy Forum

- Offered free to GCCA members
- July 28-29, 2020
- Features educational sessions focused on the rules and regulations that directly impact the industry



REGISTRATION

**NOW OPEN!** 

## QUESTIONS?

## **Global Cold Chain Alliance**

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