Please Note: Normally the Critical Infrastructure Community would be notified via the Sector.Partnership mailbox, but due to extenuating circumstances and the urgency of this message we are sending this memo through an alternate mailbox to expedite delivery. Please see the below message.

FROM: Bob Kolasky, CISA Assistant Director for the National Risk Management Center

TO: Critical Infrastructure Community

On March 16, the President issued updated Coronavirus Guidance for America with the recognition that we are in an intense 15 day period to slow the spread of COVID-19. Included in this guidance was the following statement:

*If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule.*

DHS’ Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) will be leveraging its analytic work and partnership structures across the broad critical infrastructure community to provide further risk management guidance around essential workers necessary to ensure the continuity of the functions our country needs for economic security, national security, and community public health and safety. For these workers, we will work through policy and operational processes to help prioritize access and support that these workers need to safely perform their job functions.

As a starting place, CISA has produced a Tier 1 Type of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers, drawing from existing data points and prior work on this issue, including public available analysis done by the President’s National Infrastructure Advisory Council in 2007.

By definition, such a categorizing needs to recognize the need for prioritization. The Tier 1 categorizing is not intended to limit the scope of definition of critical infrastructure – which has the meaning provided in section 1016(e) of the USA Patriot Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)), namely “systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.”
Tier 1 Essential workers are those who are necessary to keep systems and assets working to avoid having a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.”

CISA has developed initial guidance of groups of workers that could fall within Tier 1. A Draft list of those groups is attached.

To add further clarity to our understanding of these Tier 1 Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers, we are looking for insight from our partners in response to our draft, to include:

- The classes of workers that your sector, industry, or organization deem as essential and why (reacting to the baseline provided in the Tier 1 List).
- Other valuable data points as you see fit.

CISA will be using this list to support State, local, tribal and territorial government decision making via Federal guidance. It will also help set risk priorities for policy making and pandemic response activities across the federal government in the coming days and week to ensure that risk informed, data driven, awareness drives ongoing decision making – to include questions related to availability of PPE, access to communities to promote restoration, and any additional precedent given to essential critical infrastructure workforce.

Please provide suggested edits to CISA by COB March 18th to jennifer.pedersen@cisa.dhs.gov

Regards,

Bob Kolasky