



December 11, 2020

Governor Kay Ivey
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Ivey,

As the planning process for the distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine continues, I am writing to ensure that planners are aware of and make the foodservice distribution industry a priority. The Centers for Disease Control has determined that critical essential industries are one of the groups that should be considered for early vaccination if supplies are limited. Foodservice distribution is considered an essential critical infrastructure industry by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

IFDA represents foodservice distributors who deliver food and other products to facilities including restaurants, hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools and other operations that provide food away from home. Distributors have worked tirelessly throughout this crisis to ensure the customers that depend on them have the products they need. As food demand has grown, the industry has also worked closely with food banks and other non-profits to provide food aid for hungry Americans.

The crisis has also highlighted the diverse nature of the nation's food supply chain. While most Americans are aware of the retail grocery channel, the foodservice industry relies on a different set of companies to distribute the products they need. Foodservice operators require different products to feed large groups of people and the foodservice distribution supply chain has developed in order to meet these requirements.

Ensuring the continuing supply of food to foodservice customers is a critical government responsibility and state vaccination plans must ensure that foodservice distributors are a priority industry. It is critical that the men and women who work in the warehouses and drive the trucks to deliver these products can safely continue to fulfill their vital mission. A list of IFDA member company facilities by state is available [HERE](#).

Please feel free to contact me if we can provide additional information or assistance. Thank you very much for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark S. Allen
President and CEO