

ISSUE	AGENCY	BACKGROUND	ACTIONS	STATUS
PROFESSIONAL LAUNDERING OF HEALTH CARE UNIFORMS - SCRUBS		The linen, uniform and facility services industry has partnered with international partners on a study to examine how Coronavirus behaves on three fabrics commonly used in the healthcare industry. The study was conducted by De Montfort University. Among the findings, the study suggests virtually all wash processes other than low-temperature home washing will effectively eliminate any infection risk caused by coronavirus. This finding illustrates the need for healthcare personnel attire (HPAs) to be laundered by an industrial laundry that is capable of supplying hygienically clean HPAs. The study also shows the dangers of healthcare personnel wearing HPAs in public after a shift and handling soiled, HPAs at home. (See related story pg. 2)	TRSA is going to reach out to other healthcare stakeholders to build a coalition of organizations to approach legislators and regulators to encourage/require healthcare facilities to process their healthcare employee scrubs to the standards of an industrial laundry.	Highlight the safety and importance of healthcare scrubs that are processed in an industrial laundry.
VACCINE PRIORITIZATION		As vaccines for COVID-19 are approved and become available, TRSA is working to ensure the linen, uniform and facility services industry is among the top of the priority list of those receiving the vaccines. We understand that frontline healthcare workers and those most vulnerable should get the highest priority. The next level should include members of the linen, uniform, and facility services industry.	TRSA is in regular contact with the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to highlight the industry. TRSA has contacted every state governor, their respective chiefs of staff and state COVID-19 Task Forces.	Each state is operating it's own individual plan. TRSA developed Vaccine Priority Resources to aid industry in outreach.
NEW ROUND OF STIMULUS		Due to the reinstated Stay-At-Home orders, TRSA's constituency is on pace to erode by anywhere from 20% in the industrial sector to over 80% in the food and beverage (F&B) and hospitality sectors as customer sectors further roll back operations. Without further action, the anticipated job losses will approach over 60,000. Companies that focus mainly on the F&B industry have already laid off over 80% of their workforce as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has expired.	TRSA supported including following components in the final agreement: A second set of forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. Improvements to Economic Injury Disaster loans. Enhancements to the Employee Retention Tax Credit.	Agreement passed by each chamber and signed by President Joe Biden (D), including new PPP funding and an expanded Employee Retention Tax Credit which benefits the industry.
CALIFORNIA SB 275		As governments at all levels—federal, state and local—look to alleviate future shortages of important healthcare contact textiles (HCTs), TRSA is ensuring the importance of reusable HCTs is recognized and a part of the supply chain equation. The California legislature is currently considering legislation to establish a stockpile of needed healthcare PPE.	TRSA is advocating across all levels of government for healthcare facilities to maintain at least a 50% operating inventory of reusable HCTs to protect against a drastic shortage in case of an unforeseen emergency such as a natural disaster or pandemic.	Bill Signed: Establish a PPE stockpile (Reusable/ Disposable) at the Department of Public Health. Establish in-state PPE manufacturing capability. Establishes a Personal Protective Equipment Advisory Committee to which TRSA will be named as a participant.
FEMA DISASTER PREPAREDNESS		The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on many issues as it pertains to the personal protective equipment (PPE) supply chain. As natural disasters (including pandemics) occur, TRSA is working to ensure that one of the primary industries to resume operations will be the linen, uniform and facility services industry.	Encourage legislators to ask questions of FEMA officials to encourage them to add the linen, uniform and facility services industry as an essential industry to restore after/during a natural disaster.	Submit white paper and Questions for the Record to members of Congress to submit to FEMA for a response.
REUSABLE TABLE LINENS		While many states recognize the importance to public safety of cloth reusable table linens, several states and even federal agencies did not do so originally.	Contacted each federal agency or state policymaker to highlight the safety and importance of reusable cloth table linens.	FDA, CDC and most states changed guidance to recognize the safety of reusable cloth table linens.