



**By Electronic Mail**

July 20, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pence  
Vice President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Vice President Pence:

The Consumer Brands Association appreciates your leadership during these difficult times and the constructive relationship between our industry and the administration in our joint efforts to address the challenges in responding to COVID-19. As the head of the federal response to coronavirus, Consumer Brands respectfully requests the government take the steps outlined below to ensure the distribution of enough disinfecting and cleaning supplies to safely open America's schools.

We recognize that the decisions on how and when to go back to school will be made at the state and local level. However, in order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission among our country's students and teachers, we encourage the federal government to create a task force to study and protect the supply chain for these crucial products. Accordingly, we recommend the following:

- Quickly provide an accurate assessment of the amount of disinfectant products necessary to keep an average-size school clean.
- Assess the total number of schools — public and private — likely to reopen and the overall impact on current supply chains for disinfectant products.
- Evaluate the likely demand on active and inactive ingredient suppliers, determine whether there is enough domestic supply and how we ensure access to international supply chains when ingredients can't be sourced in the United States.



- Move to further codify the supply chain and efficacy claim regulatory changes EPA has already made in coordination with Consumer Brands.
- Provide tariff relief for any base materials or ingredients used to make disinfectants that are currently listed or plan to be listed for tariff penalties to help keep costs as minimal as possible for America's schools.

Additionally, we urge you once again to advocate for the creation of a [White House Office of Supply Chain](#) to oversee these efforts and help mitigate future supply chain disruptions.

Over the last several months, Consumer Brands has worked closely with your administration, particularly the EPA, to protect the supply chains for disinfectants and the products that can kill SARS-CoV-2. At our request, EPA already took several important steps to ensure the supply chain for disinfectants continues to function at this historic capacity. In particular, EPA's providing of additional flexibility in replacing suppliers for active and inactive ingredients has been crucial to maintaining operational capacity and meeting demand. Expediting the reviews of efficacy claims for disinfectants that kill the virus will further enhance consumer confidence and safety. Such measures will improve the ability to ensure school safety during the pandemic but may not fully address the realm of challenges and pressures on production and acquiring necessary disinfectants to ensure adequate school supplies.

Given the very personal nature by which parents make the decisions on where, how and when to educate their children, with safety being paramount, Consumer Brands remains hopeful that this issue rises above partisan politics in Washington. The American Academy of Pediatrics noted "no single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk."

Regardless of the decisions made by local officials and parents, every child, teacher and school employee must have access to the disinfecting and cleaning products in the classroom to stop the spread of COVID-19.

We appreciate your leadership in coordinating critical supply chain needs and remaining focused on ensuring adequate supplies of disinfectants as schools and families face these



difficult decisions. Please let me know if you would like for Consumer Brands to facilitate discussions with leading disinfectant manufacturers.

Regards,

Bryan Zumwalt  
Executive Vice President, Public Affairs  
Consumer Brands Association