



Dear PIJAC Member,

As the [novel coronavirus COVID-19](#) crisis rapidly evolves, we at PIJAC are working nonstop to provide you and the rest of the responsible pet care community with the information and resources you need to ensure the health and well-being of yourselves, your families, your employees, your businesses and the animals you care for.

More and more states across the country are imposing mandatory non-essential business closure directives, over a dozen so far and more being added every day. **Some explicitly exempt pet stores from closure, and some do not.** PIJAC's newest resource to help you track these closures, and how they pertain to pet care and supply businesses, is: [States/Jurisdictions with Essential/Non-Essential Business Designations](#)

This spreadsheet tracks the various executive orders and closures that have been announced to date, and it will be continuously updated—so we urge you to bookmark and frequently refer to it, along with all our up-to-date COVID-19 resources at [pijac.org/covid19](#).

The federal government, specifically the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), has also issued guidance for the types of employees who work in critical infrastructure industries and should be exempted from mandatory shutdowns during the COVID-19 response: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>. Live animal producers, food manufacturers, transporters and distributors as well as veterinary service providers and everyone involved in animal health and medicine are all identified as essential under the heading of "Food and Agriculture," though pet retail is not. It is important to note that these categories of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce are intended as federal guidance, but not a mandated directive. The actual closures and exemptions are being decided at the state level.

We will continue to collect need-to-know information and resources for you on our website at [pijac.org/covid19](#). This includes the latest from CDC and a state-by-state listing of links to [State and Local Government Business Guidance, Assistance and Resources](#). If you have not yet added your signature to our open letter to government officials, you can also do that on that page.

If you have any questions please contact us at info@pijac.org.

Sincerely,

John Mack
2020 PIJAC Board Chair

Mike Bober
PIJAC President & CEO