

The U.S. Chemical Supply Chain: Vulnerabilities Highlighted by COVID-19

A Webinar Hosted by the Chemical Sciences Roundtable

July 2, 2020

11:00 AM—12:30 PM EDT

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the chemical industry in the United States has maintained operating status and continues to be at the forefront of worker safety. Despite these achievements, the pandemic exposed some of the vulnerabilities in the chemical industry's supply chain. With an increased demand for chemical products, such as isopropyl alcohol for the production of hand sanitizer, the United States has seen firsthand the inflexibility of the supply chain to increase or alter production. The “just-in-time” manufacturing approach that many companies previously adopted to maximize efficiency and lower costs has now presented the industry with production challenges and raises the question of how demand can be met if a disruption to the supply chain occurs. Also of note are the specialty chemical and pharmaceutical industries, which are increasingly vulnerable as they have outsourced many of their operations overseas. In the event of a global disruption or a localized disruption unique to the point of origin, the United States risks not being able to obtain the products it critically needs—such as personal protective equipment, medications, and medical equipment—as has occurred in the case of COVID-19. This webinar, hosted by the Chemical Sciences Roundtable, will aim to highlight these two vulnerabilities in the supply chain: the inelasticity of the chemical supply chain and the risks posed by the overseas manufacturing of specialty and pharmaceutical chemicals.

Agenda

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| 11:00 AM | Welcome and Introductions
Ellen Mantus, <i>CSR Director</i> |
| 11:05 AM | Chemical Supply Chain Risks
David Bem, <i>PPG Industries</i> |
| 11:15 AM | U.S. Chemical Supply Chain: Industry Perspective amid COVID-19
Kevin Swift, <i>American Chemistry Council</i> |
| 11:40 AM | Strengthening the U.S. medicines supply chain: Analytics to bring transparency and drive solutions
Ronald Piervincenzi, <i>United States Pharmacopeia</i> |
| 12:05 PM | Discussion
Moderated by Michael Fuller, <i>Chevron Energy Technology Company</i> |
| 12:30 PM | Webinar Concludes |