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What does the Defense Industrial Base need to reopen and/or recover from COVID-19?

Summary of Responses from Industry Associations

Personal protective equipment (PPE) access and guidance

- 23% of NDIA survey respondents need help procuring proper PPE to keep their workforces safe. Most of these are small businesses.
- Industry needs clear guidance on standards and protocols for PPE equipment, including:
 - How will contractors will be informed of these standards and protocols?
 - Will these standards and protocols be applied across DoD facilities?
 - Will contractors and DIB workers have to follow the same guidelines as government workers?
 - Who will be responsible for providing PPE to workers, and who will cover costs?
 - How will DoD address access to PPE for OCONUS workers?
- Recommendation: U.S. should move production of PPE and other emergency medical items (ventilators, essential high volume medications) to within the U.S. and its territories.

Consistent reopening guidance across the U.S.

- State and local restrictions will affect physical reopening dates and the number of personnel that can return to work. How will DoD address these differences when developing and implementing guidance?

Teleworking guidance

- Higher risk employees may be unable to return to their offices, so telework will be critical.
 - Recommendation: Industry requests that DoD reaffirm at every level a strong preference for continuing telework by eligible federal employees and contractors.

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