



Global Semiconductor Industry Calls on Nations to Prioritize Essential Supply Chain Operations For Vaccine Distribution

January 2021

As government authorities begin the complex logistical process of distributing and administering vaccines to their populations, the global semiconductor industry calls on all governments and authorities to consider prioritizing certain semiconductor industry workers for vaccination.

Consistent with guidelines of by public health experts around the world, we fully support the need to prioritize limited vaccine supplies to health care workers, vulnerable populations, and emergency first responders. As more vaccine doses become available to meet the needs of additional essential workers, we ask governments and authorities to consider the importance of vaccinating those semiconductor workers who cannot perform their work remotely and who are part of the global supply chains providing products essential to the worldwide response to the pandemic.

The global semiconductor industry plays a critical role in the global economy and the supply of vital components for medical devices, critical infrastructure, and equipment vital to health care. As summarized in a recent paper,¹ semiconductors enable the technologies that support a wide range of medical devices, testing and tracing capabilities, and the delivery of remote healthcare services. In addition, semiconductors underpin the information technology infrastructure necessary for enabling remote work and education and play a key role in virtually all sectors of the economy, ranging from energy and communications to transportation and finance.

Given the vital importance of these technologies, we ask for governments and authorities to consider appropriate prioritization of semiconductor industry workers who must be present at the work site – such as operators, technicians and maintenance personnel in semiconductor fabrication, factory or laboratory facilities, and scientists and engineers requiring the use of specialized equipment for research and design. Because of the critical role of the semiconductor industry for virtually all sectors of our economy, governments and authorities around the world identified workers in the semiconductor industry as essential critical infrastructure workers to ensure continuity of operations in this vital industry. For these same reasons, the global industry calls on governments and authorities at all levels – central, states/provinces, and localities – consider the important role of key workers in our industry and prioritize these workers for vaccinations.

The semiconductor industry is committed to taking all necessary steps to ensure its essential workers remain healthy and safe and to use its critical technologies to assist in the effort to battle the global pandemic.

Semiconductor Industry Association in China (CSIA), Semiconductor Industry Association in EU (ESIA), Semiconductor Industry Association in Japan (JSIA), Semiconductor Industry Association in Korea (KSIA), Semiconductor & Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI), SEMI, Semiconductor Industry Association in U.S. (SIA), Singapore Semiconductor Industry Association (SSIA), Semiconductor Industry Association in Chinese Taipei (TSIA)

¹ <https://www.semiconductors.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/From-Microchips-to-Medical-Devices-SIA-White-Paper.pdf>