The Indiana Manufacturers Association The IMA supports legislation that protects businesses from COVID-19-related liability when good-faith efforts to protect employees, visitors and customers are made.

General Liability

All businesses that are making good faith efforts to follow safety guidelines should be protected from COVID related lawsuits. For this reason and the circumstances as outlined above that manufacturers continued to operate throughout the pandemic, the Indiana Manufacturers Association is supporting policies that give the broadest protection to manufacturers as possible. With shifting information, standards, and rules from multiple levels of government there is no definitive set of guidelines that businesses should have or should be following. Therefore, the IMA is committed to full protection from liability unless employers deliberately placed employees, visitors or customers at risk.

Worker's Compensation

In Worker’s Compensation, viral diseases are not typically covered because of the difficulty in tracing contraction of the virus to the workplace. This is obviously true for the coronavirus, since information on contraction and spread remains so inexact. Despite this precedent, some states, either through legislative or executive action, imposed or attempted to impose mandated coverage by employers for COVID positive workers. Governor Holcomb and the Indiana Workers Compensation Board have left the coverage of COVID-19 under worker’s compensation up to employers and about half of claims have been paid. The IMA supports a complete prohibition of compensability for COVID related injury, accident or occupational disease.

Products Liability

Indiana Manufacturers answered the call to fight the pandemic and many shifted or ramped up production of PPE, cleaning supplies, medical equipment, medicines and other COVID-19 related products. The IMA is supporting a straightforward and comprehensive products liability protection that would shield manufacturers and distributors for all but the most reckless or deliberate indifference to the safety of those who may use COVID related products.