

The world we woke up to earlier this week is far different from the one we lived in less than a week ago. Although the COVID-19 coronavirus has been a topic of conversation since it first appeared in China more than two months ago, it seemed for many of us a foreign and isolated threat. No longer.

We are now engaged in a world-wide fight against a common enemy that knows no borders and attacks indiscriminately. Governments, businesses and individuals are working together to slow the progress of the disease and to protect the most vulnerable among us—the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. We must all do our part and heed the instructions of public health officials or many more people will die needlessly.

We have closed the SMART headquarters office and will be working remotely for the foreseeable future. Technology allows us in the service sector to adapt rather easily to the new reality. Not so for our members in the wiping cloth industry who need employees in factories and warehouses to produce and distribute goods that are essential for the safety and health of people around the world. The economic impact of the coronavirus fight is unknowable at this time, but it is likely to be severe, especially for our members engaged in the used clothing sector of the industry.

During these extraordinary times, SMART is here to assist and support the textile reuse and recycling industry. Our goal over the next few months is to do all we can to help our members in the face of this crisis. Our focus will be on providing you with information you need to protect your business, your employees and your customers. We'll do that through frequent communications and timely webcasts and conference calls.

We have compiled a list of resources from Government agencies and allied associations to assist you as you and your company adjust to this crisis. We will continually update these as we find out new information that can better help you plan for this uncertain future.

The communication needs to be two-way to be truly effective. We need to know what your challenges are so that we can marshal our resources to provide solutions. We also need to know if there are resources that we haven't listed that may be of assistance to others in the industry.

Our members and their families are of great concern to SMART and we hope everyone is staying well and being safe during these challenging times. The world is now a very different one than the one we woke up to last week but we will all get through this by working together.

Be Well,



Jackie King

Executive Director

Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART)