While Genesee & Wyoming’s Columbus & Ohio River Rail Road (CUOH) has been an important part of transportation logistics for many customers across central and eastern Ohio for nearly two decades, the coronavirus pandemic has further emphasized that role. Two customers served by the railroad produce essential products, including cleaners and disinfectants as well as pharmaceuticals and nutritional therapeutics.

- CUOH serves the Colgate-Palmolive plant in Cambridge, Ohio. The facility produces cleaning products that require CUOH to deliver ethyl and fatty alcohols as well as cleaning compound. The raw materials predominantly ship by rail from suppliers in Illinois, Louisiana, New Jersey and Texas, with CUOH making the final delivery.

- Another customer, Abbott, produces various supplements, including infant formula and other nutritional supplements, at its Columbus, Ohio, laboratory. These products require oils transported by rail from a single supplier in California, with CUOH delivering the raw material shipments to Abbott.

“CUOH always strives to provide safe and efficient service, and these customers, who are critical suppliers of products needed by consumers across the country right now, have thanked us for providing exemplary rail service,” says Greg Arnold, marketing and sales manager for CUOH.

CUOH General Manager Tim Slusser says he and his team are in frequent communication with all customers and are ready to help meet any increased demand for transportation services during these unprecedented times. Precautions are being taken to keep the team safe and healthy – including discussing health measures in job briefings, limiting the number of people in a crew room at a time, and sanitizing offices, locomotives and other high-touch areas regularly.

CUOH safely and efficiently serves customer along 277 miles through Ohio, carrying chemicals, farm products, pulp and paper, steel and other commodities. The railroad was acquired by G&W in 2008 and has an outstanding safety record, now operating more than three years injury-free.