COVID-19 Worker Relief Funds, Company Actions, and Impact on Frontline Workers

GOOD JOBS INSTITUTE

Last updated March 23, 2020
Coming Together to Support Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Service workers and health workers are the backbone of America. COVID-19 is impacting tens of millions of these workers across our communities, in different ways. Many restaurant, hospitality, hotel, and retail workers are now out of work, while grocery, pharmacy, convenience store, and healthcare workers are working overtime to ensure Americans are fed and cared for during this crisis. Good Jobs Institute stands with them in this unprecedented global emergency.

Worker Relief Funds: We are posting resources for workers—emergency funds and more—by city and by profession. If you need help, or if you can donate at this time, this list is for you. If you have resources to add, DM @goodjobsinst on Twitter or email info@goodjobsinstitute.org.

Company Actions: At GJI, our mission help companies thrive by creating good jobs. In this time of global crisis, we want to elevate those companies who are stepping up to support their frontline workers. In that spirit, we’ve compiled a list of companies who are closing stores and business units but still paying hourly workers. We recognize these company responses may not be as complete or deep as we’d like, and there is always more that can be done, especially on paid sick leave nationally, but we want to recognize those companies that are paying workers in uncertain times. For those retailers staying open, we offer one example from Good Jobs company Mercadona on their efforts to ensure worker and customer safety in this pandemic.

This list is in no way complete—we hope to crowdsource more examples. If you know of other companies stepping up to support frontline workers, DM @goodjobsinst on Twitter or email info@goodjobsinstitute.org and we’ll add them to the list.

Worker Impact Articles: Finally, we are collecting articles on how frontline workers are being impacted by COVID-19. Find a list below, and again, please recommend more and we’ll add them.

We are all in this together. Please help us build this community resource and get best practices and resources out to those most impacted.

The Good Jobs Institute Team
Worker Relief Funds by City

Worker Relief Funds/Places to Donate
For workers who need emergency relief, there are funds popping up across the US, by city/state and by profession. We have a very partial list below. If you know of more resources for workers, email us at info@goodjobsinstitute.org and we will add it to this running list. Look to your local United Way, food banks, and community foundations—many are mobilizing covid-19 relief funds for workers and non-profits impacted by the pandemic (some are listed below, but there are many more local branches launching relief funds and food relief). And if you can donate, there are many great options.

Your state may also have guidelines for how to access unemployment and small business relief: See below for an example from Washington State
- WA State Employment Security providing resources for workers, businesses impacted by COVID-19
- For workers and businesses affected by COVID-19 (coronavirus)

Don't see your area on our list? Look here.
- National
  - United Way JOIN THE RESPONSE TO COVID-19
  - Community Foundations Nationwide Launch Coronavirus Relief Efforts
- Alabama
  - United Way COVID-19 Community Response
- Alaska
  - United Way Anchorage Cares
- Arizona
  - Community Foundation of Southern Arizona COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund
- Arkansas
  - United Way COVID-19 Response
- California
  - Statewide
    - California United Ways COVID-19 Relief Fund
  - Los Angeles
    - COVID-19 Response
    - Pandemic Relief Fund
  - Redding
    - Shasta Regional Community Foundation COVID-19 Relief Fund
  - Sacramento
    - City Economic Relief Fund for Small Businesses
  - San Diego
    - San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund
  - San Francisco
    - How you can help Bay Area nonprofits
    - San Francisco COVID-19 Emergency Response & Recovery Fund
    - San Francisco COVID-19 Small Business Resiliency Fund
    - San Francisco COVID-19: Performing Arts Worker Relief Fund
    - COVID 19 Tipping Point Community: Emergency Response
    - Silicon Valley, CA
      - Silicon Valley Community Foundation COVID-19 Regional Response Fund
- Colorado
  - Colorado Covid 19 Fund
  - 6 Resources for Colorado Hospitality Workers in Need
- Connecticut
  - United Way Emergency Response
- Delaware
  - United Way COVID19 - Resources and Information -
Worker Relief Funds by City (cont.)

- **Delaware**
  - United Way [COVID19 - Resources and Information -](#)

- **Florida**
  - United Way [Florida's First Coast Relief Fund COVID-19](#)

- **Georgia**
  - [COVID-19: How you can help those in need in Atlanta](#)

- **Hawaii**
  - United Way [Donate](#)

- **Idaho**
  - United Way [COVID-19](#)

- **Illinois**
  - Greater Chicago Food Depository - Donate Now - Greater Chicago Food Depository
  - COVID-19 Relief Fund
  - Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund | Home

- **Indiana**
  - United Way [Central Indiana COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund](#)

- **Iowa**
  - United Way of East Central Iowa

- **Kansas**
  - [SAUW COVID-19](#)
  - Hospitality Industry Relief Emergency Fund

- **Kentucky**
  - Restaurant Workers Relief Fund
  - COVID-19 Response Fund Home - Community Foundation of Louisville

- **Louisiana**
  - Gig worker relief fund
  - Hospitality Cares Pandemic Response Fund
  - Service and Hospitality Employee Family Program & COVID-19 Resources
  - Hospitality Cares Pandemic Response Fund

- **Maine**
  - Greater Portland COVID-19 Community Relief Fund

- **Maryland**
  - Baltimore Community Foundation COVID-19 Evolving Community Needs Fund

- **Massachusetts**
  - [United Way: Massachusetts COVID-19 FUND](#)
  - City of Boston to launch coronavirus fund for families hit hardest by crisis
  - Boston Resiliency Fund
  - Here's how you can donate to organizations helping people affected by coronavirus shutdowns
  - Boston Artist Relief Fund
  - Greg Hill Foundation Sam Adams Restaurant Strong Fund

- **Michigan**
  - [United Way of SE Michigan COVID-19 Community Response Fund](#)
  - Resources for Michigan Businesses during COVID19

- **Minnesota**
  - [Covid 19 Fund](#)

- **Mississippi**
  - United Way of Northeast Mississippi

- **Missouri**
  - Support United Way's COVID-19 Response

- **Montana**
  - United Way [COVID-19](#)

- **Nebraska**
  - United Way [Support Families Impacted by COVID-19](#)

- **Nevada**
  - [Emergency Assistance and Community Needs Fund / COVID-19 Resources](#)

- **New Hampshire**
  - Granite United Way's Response to COVID-19 | Granite United Way
Worker Relief Funds by City (cont.)

- **New Hampshire**
  - [Granite United Way's Response to COVID-19 | Granite United Way](#)

- **New Jersey**
  - [United Way of NJ :: Get Help :: Free Tax Preparation](#)

- **New Mexico**
  - [Emergency Action Fund](#)

- **New York**
  - [Financial Assistance for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 - SBS](#)
  - [Invisible Hands](#)
  - [Brooklyn COVID-19 Response Fund](#)
  - [NYC COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund - with nonprofit](#)
  - [Robin Hood Relief Fund](#)
  - [NYC Relief Funds that Support Restaurant Workers](#)

- **North Carolina**
  - [Triangle Restaurant Workers Relief Fund](#)
  - [Donate Now | High Country COVID-19 Relief Fund by High Country United Way](#)

- **North Dakota**
  - [COVID-19](#)

- **Ohio**
  - [Community Response Fund](#)

- **Oklahoma**
  - [Tulsa Area COVID-19 Response Fund Now Accepting Donations](#)

- **Oregon**
  - [COVID-19 RESPONSE — Family Meal](#)
  - [Jade District-Oldtown COVID-19 Small Business Response Fund](#)
  - [Donate to the Jade District Covid Relief Fund](#)

- **Pennsylvania**
  - [A FRONTLINE FUND FOR COMMUNITY](#)

- **Rhode Island**
  - [United Way of Rhode Island COVID-19 Response Fund](#)

- **South Carolina**
  - [Trident United Way](#)

- **South Dakota**
  - [Coronavirus Information](#)

- **Tennessee**
  - [United Way Nashville: United Way of Greater Nashville](#)

- **Texas**
  - [United Way of Greater Houston](#)
  - [City of Dallas Emergency Assistance Fund](#)
  - [El Paso COVID-19 Response Fund](#)
  - [Southern Smoke Foundation Emergency Fund](#)

- **Utah**
  - [COVID-19 Community Fund](#)

- **Vermont**
  - [United Way of Addison County](#)

- **Virginia**
  - [RAMW Educated Eats Coronavirus Worker Relief Fund/Hook Hall Helps](#)

- **Washington**
  - [Seattle, Washington](#)
    - [COVID-19 Response Fund](#)
    - [Seattle Hospitality Emergency Fund](#)
    - [Resources for the community](#)
    - [A List of Resources to Help Seattle’s Small Businesses Amid the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

- **West Virginia**
  - [Donate](#)

- **Wisconsin**
  - [COVID-19 Coronavirus and your Community Foundation](#)

- **Wyoming**
  - [COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund](#)
Worker Relief Funds by Industry

US Bartenders Guild National Charitable Foundation
- COVID-19 Relief & Response (Jameson Donates $500K to United States Bartenders Guild Emergency Grants Program)

Restaurants/Food Service Workers
- Good list of relief resources here:
  ▪ Resources for Restaurants and Workers Coping with the COVID-19 Emergency
  ▪ How to Help The Hospitality Industry During COVID-19 Bar Closures
  ▪ A List of Relief Funds for Coronavirus-Affected Restaurants, Bars, and Food Service Workers
- Restaurant Workers’ Community Foundation Announces the Formation of Restaurant Workers COVID19 Crisis Relief Fund
- ONE FAIR WAGE: Emergency Coronavirus Tipped and Service Worker Support Fund
- A Useful List of Bar & Restaurant Relief Funds During the Coronavirus Crisis
- Another Round Another Rally
- CORE (Children of Restaurant Employees) COVID – 19
- Go Tip Em Crowdsourcing Tips Platform
- Help Main Street: Support Local Merchants
- James Beard Foundation Relief Fund

Healthcare Workers
- Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP) COVID-19 Response Fund
- COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Response Fund

Artists/Entertainment
- Good list of relief resources here:
  ▪ COVID-19 Emergency Funding and Artist Resources
  ▪ List of Arts Resources During the COVID-19 Outbreak
- Relief Fund for Hollywood Support Staff:
  ▪ Relief Fund for Hollywood Support Staff organized by Liz Alper
- Resources for Freelance Artists
  ▪ COVID-19 & Freelance Artists
  ▪ MusiCares Coronavirus Relief Fund | MusiCares
  ▪ SAG/AFTRA Foundation COVID-19 Disaster Fund
  ▪ Sweet Relief Musicians Fund COVID-19 Fund

Domestic Workers
- National Domestic Workers Alliance Coronavirus Care Fund

Hotel Worker
- None found: send us ones you know of

Retail Workers
- None found: send us ones you know of

Small Businesses
- List Of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Small Business Relief Programs
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- Lululemon says, “Your health and the safety of our people are everything to us”
  “During this extraordinary time, there is nothing more important than giving our community the space to be with their friends, family and loved ones. In light of the rapidly changing status of COVID-19, lululemon has made the decision to close all store in North America and Europe beginning March 16th through March 27. lululemon employees will continue to receive pay for all hours they have been schedule to work and have access to lululemon’s Global Pay Relief plan.” [Click here to read more.]

- Patagonia to close website and stores due to coronavirus, but they will continue to pay workers
  "We will temporarily close our stores, offices and other operations at the end of business on Friday, March 13, 2020," the statement continued. "Employees who can work from home will do so. All Patagonia employees will receive their regular pay during the closure. We apologize that over the next two weeks, there will be delays on orders and customer-service requests. We ask for your understanding and patience. We will reassess and post an update on March 27, 2020.“ [Click here to read more.]

- Nike’s top priority is the well-being of their teammates and consumers
  "Nike is closing all of its stores in the U.S., along with other parts of the world, to try to curb the spread of the new coronavirus, the company said Sunday morning. Its locations across the U.S., Canada, Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand will close from Monday through March 27, the company said. Workers will still be paid in full during this time off, a spokeswoman confirmed to CNBC.” [Click here to read more.]
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **Warby Park will continue to pay retail team members as if they were working in stores during this time**

  "COVID-19 is impacting all of us—as individuals and as communities—in unprecedented ways. Given the rapidly changing environment, we have decided to temporarily close all of our stores through March 27 for the safety of our customers, our employees, and the general public. Our retail team members will continue to be paid as if they were working in stores during this time." [Click here to read more.]

- **J. Crew is closing stores for two weeks, but employees will be paid**

  "We are all in this together. To join in the efforts to socially distance and do our part to protect and care for our associates, customers and the public health, we’ve decided to close all J.Crew and J.Crew Factory retail stores for the next two weeks until March 28th, effective immediately. We are so grateful for our store associates—they are the heart of our business, and they will be paid during this timeframe." [Click here to read more.]

- **L.L. Bean plans to continue pay and benefits for all year-round employees affected by the retail closure**

  "L.L.Bean has announced it is temporarily closing its retail stores beginning Monday night. The stores will be closed by midnight and remain so until March 29. Company officials said L.L.Bean plans to continue pay and benefits for all year-round employees affected by the retail closure." [Click here to read more.]

- **Glossier offline employees will be compensated for their scheduled time through planned two weeks of closure**

  "Our amazing offline editors … we’ll be compensating them for their scheduled time throughout our planned two weeks of closure. From a company perspective, by closing our stores, we’ll sacrifice some near-term business goals, but we’re prepared to put public health ahead of our bottom line." [Click here to read more.]

Added on 3/17/2020
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

• Lush is ensuring regular pay for all staff during this period

“Given what we know today, we believe it’s our duty as an ethical business to do what we can to slow the spread of this virus and minimize the impact on our hardworking healthcare professionals. As such, we have decided to temporarily close all 258 Lush retail stores across Canada and the US from March 16-29. Because our products are all made fresh by hand weekly for our shops, these closures will also require us to significantly scale down our manufacturing and distribution operations for the duration of the shop closures. We are working through how we can best support our employee base through these changes, ensuring regular pay for all staff during this period.” [Click here to read more.]

• While Fossil stores are closed, employees will be compensated for their hours through March 28th

“While our stores are closed, these employees will be compensated for their hours through March 28th. Without our employees, we would not have the privilege of serving each of you daily, and we thank them for all that they do and for their unwavering spirit.” [Click here to read more.]

• All Allbirds employees will receive full pay and benefits during the closure

“It’s hard to navigate the unknown, but as we continue to better understand how to slow the spread of COVID-19 we want to do all we can to keep our customers, employees and local communities safe. Our corporate staff is now working from home, and our store in the US and Europe will be closed from March 15th through the 27th. All employees will get full pay and benefits during this time” [Click here to read more.]
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **All Away employees and store team members will receive pay during this period**

  “So much is unknown right now, but the one thing we do know that can help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect ourselves and our community is to take steps to limit our exposure to others. This is why we have made the decision to temporarily close our retail locations, as well as our location where monogramming services are performed, for at least two weeks starting close of business Monday, March 16. We will also delay the upcoming opening of our store in Dallas. All Away employees and store team members will receive pay during this period, and we will reassess things as events warrant. In our corporate offices, we will continue to encourage remote work arrangements.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Everlane employees will be compensated for their hours while stores are closed until March 28**

  “The COVID-19 epidemic continues to evolve by the day. As a business and a community, we believe that we must do our part to slow the spread of the virus while we continue to operate. Our priority is our people. This means prioritizing the health and safety of our workers at every level of the company, from stores to headquarters, and across our supply chain. As of now, our retail stores are closing until March 28. Our online store will still be open, and we’ll be available at support@everlane.com or via our social channels. All part-time and full-time retail employees accrue paid sick leave. They will all be compensated for their hours while our stores are closed until March 28.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Levi Strauss store employees will be paid for all scheduled hours during the closure**

  “Levi Strauss & Co. announced it will temporarily close its owned and operated retail locations in the United States and Canada as of Monday, March 16, in response to the coronavirus and the guidance of public health officials in both countries. The company expects these stores to remain closed through March 27, 2020. Store employees will be paid for all scheduled hours during the closure.” [Click here to read more.](#)
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **All Ascena Brands store associates will receive compensation for their scheduled shifts**
  
  “In response to the escalating global spread of COVID-19, the Company will temporarily close all Company-operated retail stores, effective March 18 through March 28. During this temporary closure period, all store associates will receive compensation for their scheduled shifts.”  
  [Click here to read more.]

- **Tory Burch dedicated store teams will continue to receive pay during this time**
  
  “Our stores in the U.S. and Canada have been closed and will remain so until March 29 so that we can do our best to support the efforts to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Our dedicated store teams will continue to receive pay during this time.”  
  [Click here to read more.]

- **Hudson’s Bay store associates will be paid for all scheduled shifts that were planned for the two weeks**
  
  “In response to the current COVID-19 situation, Hudson’s Bay has made the decision to temporarily close all its stores, effective immediately. Stores will remain closed for 2 weeks, and operations will be reassessed at that time. During this closure, store associates will be paid for all scheduled shifts that were planned for the two weeks.”  
  [Click here to read more.]

- **Saks Fifth Ave associates will be paid for their scheduled hours during this two week period**
  
  “In response to the current COVID-19 situation, Saks Fifth Avenue has made the decision to temporarily close all of its stores across the U.S. and Canada, effective Wednesday, March 18. The company expects for stores to remain closed for two weeks, unless otherwise instructed by government or public health officials, and we will reassess operations at that time. All associates will be paid for their scheduled hours during this two week period.”  
  [Click here to read more.]
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **Nordstrom** will be providing store employees with pay and benefits during this two-week period

  “We realize the impact a closure can have on our store employees, and this is not a decision we made lightly. We want to take care of them as best we can and will be providing them with pay and benefits during this two-week period as well as providing additional resources to help them through this challenging time.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Sephora’s** store employees will continue to receive their base pay for scheduled shifts

  “We will continue to care for our employees and their families. Any changes to our corporate or store operations will not affect our commitment to them. To that end, all store employees will continue to receive their base pay for scheduled shifts for the duration of this closure. In addition, health and wellness benefits for employees who are currently enrolled will continue. And all distribution center employees will receive the same considerations should we experience any unplanned disruptions in one of our centers. We will continue to share updates with our community in the days ahead as we take any further action..” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **H&M** is giving impacted colleagues two weeks of continued pay

  “Today we have made the critical decision to close all our retail locations in the United States until April 2, 2020 or until further notice. In these uncertain times, we must all do our best to help ease the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Following recommendations from local authorities on social distancing and limiting public gatherings, we feel this is the best course of action for the safety and wellbeing of our employees and customers. We will continue to support our impacted colleagues and their families with two weeks of continued pay.” [Click here to read more.](#)
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **Emergency pay will be enacted for DSW store associates, who are not working, to cover their scheduled shifts**
  
  “Consistent with our number one priority of protecting our associates, customers, and the communities we serve, we will temporarily close all of our stores in the U.S. and Canada to the public, starting Tuesday evening, March 17. Emergency pay will be enacted for store associates, who are not working, to cover their scheduled shifts.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Lbrands’ employees will receive weekly pay through March 29th based on average hours worked over the past four weeks**
  
  “We are committed to ensuring our frontline associates receive the support they need during this time. Hourly store, distribution center and call center associates – who are not working because the company has temporarily closed their function – will receive weekly pay through March 29th based on average hours worked over the past four weeks. We will also continue to evaluate how to best support associates as the situation continues to evolve.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Ulta will continue to pay our store and salon associates**
  
  “Things have been changing very quickly with the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in the U.S. Because of this, we will be taking an important next step to temporarily close our Ulta Beauty stores across the U.S. as of 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 until at least Tuesday, March 31. We understand the impact this will have on our guests and we want you to know how much we appreciate your flexibility and understanding. We also understand the impact this will have on our associates, who are at the heart of our company. To care for them during this unprecedented time, we will continue to pay our store and salon associates, as well as provide benefits for those who are currently enrolled.” [Click here to read more.](#)
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **All American Eagle store associates will be compensated for scheduled time during current closure period**
  “American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. announced that in order to protect its people and communities it is temporarily closing all of its American Eagle and Aerie stores in the United States and Canada effective end of day March 17, 2020. This is in response to the continued spread of COVID-19 and the guidance of government and public health officials. The closures will remain in place until at least March 27, 2020 and all store associates will be compensated for scheduled time during that period.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Neiman Marcus will provide pay and benefits to store associates affected by store closures**
  “Neiman Marcus Group LTD LLC today announced the decision to temporarily close all Neiman Marcus, Bergdorf Goodman, and Last Call stores, effective immediately, as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to accelerate throughout the U.S. Stores will remain closed through March 31, with the potential to be extended pending future evaluation of the situation. The Company will provide pay and benefits to store associates affected by store closures for this two-week period.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Ralph Lauren team members impacted by closure will receive their standard pay for the full two weeks**
  “Our number one priority is the health and well-being of our employees, our customers, and the communities we serve. That is why we will temporarily close our stores across North America beginning Wednesday, March 18, through Wednesday, April 1. During this period, we will continuously assess the quickly evolving context around us. We will take into account the guidance of medical experts, global health organizations, and governments to determine the right time to return to business location by location. All of our team members impacted by this short-term closure will receive their standard pay for the full two weeks.” [Click here to read more.](#)
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **Kiehl’s employees will receive pay for all hours they have been scheduled to work**

  “Since 1851, our community has been at the heart of everything we do at Kiehl’s. In the spirit of being good neighbors and to protect our store teams and communities through this difficult time, effective immediately we will close our stores nationwide today, until further notice. We want you to know that our employees will receive pay for all hours they have been scheduled to work. In addition, we are actively helping any team member battling this virus, needing time to self-quarantine, or finding their lives disrupted during this unusual time.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Chico’s FAS Inc.’s full-time and part-time associates will receive their full pay during this two-week closure**

  “Our customers and associates are at the center of our purpose and every decision we make. Our commitment to doing the right thing is more important than ever during this uncertain time. During our temporary store closure, our full-time and part-time associates will receive their full pay during this two-week closure period.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Williams Sonoma will continue to pay our retail associates as scheduled over these two weeks**

  Williams-Sonoma operates a portfolio of loved brands comprised of Williams Sonoma, Williams Sonoma Home, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, Pottery Barn Teen, West Elm, Rejuvenation, and Mark and Graham. “After very careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to temporarily close our store in North America from 6pm local time on March 17, with a plan to reopen on April 2. We will continue to pay our retail associates as scheduled over these two weeks.” [Click here to read more.](#)
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **Perry Ellis retail employees will receive compensation and benefits for their scheduled shifts**
  
  “Effective March 17, 2020, we have made a decision to temporarily close our domestic retail stores. We will continue to assess the fluidity of this situation and heed the guidance of medical experts, global health organization along with the state and local officials to determine the right time to return to business by location. All of our retail employees will receive compensation and benefits for their scheduled shifts during this temporary closure.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Foot Locker team members will continue to be paid**
  
  “The strength of Foot Locker, Inc. is our people – our team members, our customers, and our community. Based on the escalation of the pandemic, and after careful consideration, we have decided to close all stores in North America, effective March 17 through March 31. We will continue to monitor developments across the globe, and we will make decisions as needed. In the meantime, Foot Locker team members will continue to be paid.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Urban Outfitters will continue to pay our store teams during this time**
  
  “In an effort to protect our communities, we have decided to close all of our global stores. We will continue to pay our store teams during this time. As far as we know, none of our employees have tested positive for COVID-19. Stores will not reopen until at least March 28 and because the situation is complex and evolving rapidly, our plans may change. And if they do, we'll let you know.” [Click here to read more.](#)
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

• Adidas retail employees will continue to receive pay for all hours they’ve been scheduled to work during the closures
  
  “At Adidas, the health and safety of our employees, consumers, and partners is our number one priority. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and to help limit the spread of the Coronavirus, we decided to temporarily close Adidas-owned and Reebok-owned stores in Europe, United States, and Canada. Retail employees will continue to receive pay for all hours they’ve been scheduled to work during the closures.” [Click here to read more.]

• Body Shop employees will continue to receive pay for all hours scheduled for that time period
  
  “We are taking the next step to protect the safety of our people and communities by closing retail stores across North America beginning today Monday, March 16 until at least Friday, March 27. The Body Shop store employees will continue to receive pay for all hours scheduled for that time period.” [Click here to read more.]

• VF Corporation retail employees at closed locations will continue to receive full pay and benefits
  
  “In response to the global COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, VF Corporation announced the temporary closure of all owned retail stores across North America, effective March 16 through April 5. All retail employees at these locations will continue to receive full pay and benefits during the temporary closure period.” [Click here to read more.]

Vans®, The North Face®, Timberland®, and Dickies
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **PVH retail employees will continue to receive pay for all hours they’ve been scheduled to work during closures**

  PVH Corp. announced that in response to the escalating global coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, it will close temporarily all Company-operated retail stores across North America and Europe, effective March 17 through March 29. All retail associates at these locations will continue to receive full pay and benefits for their scheduled shifts during the temporary closure period. [Click here to read more.]

  *Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Van Heusen, Izod, Speedo USA*

- **Rent the Runway will be paying our valued associates during closures**

  "We are doing so out of an abundance of caution and to help prevent further spread of the illness. We'll continue to assess the situation and our plans regularly. We are planning to close for a week and will be paying our valued associates during this time." [Click here to read more.]

- **Lands’ End will continue to pay all our retail employees for the hours they have been scheduled to work**

  “We care deeply about our employees, customers and communities and want to be sure that we keep them healthy and safe during this unprecedented time. Out of an abundance of caution to the communities we serve, we are closing all retail stores in the United States through March 29th. We will continue to pay all our retail employees for the hours they have been scheduled to work in our stores.” [Click here to read more.]
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **All REI store employees will be paid during this temporary closure**
  
  “After a great deal of careful consideration, we are temporarily closing our 162 retail stores nationwide starting tomorrow, March 16, until March 27. I believe that is the right thing for our community. In fact, I believe it is our duty—to do all we can to help keep one another safe in this unprecedented moment. That also means all employees from our stores will be paid during this temporary closure.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Outdoor Voices: all scheduled shop teams will be compensated during this period**
  
  “All of our retail shops will be closed beginning tomorrow through March 27th and our community events will be postponed until further notice. All scheduled shop teams will be compensated during this period, and our team at HQ will be working remotely.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Vineyard Vines will be paying store employees for any previously scheduled shifts**
  
  “To prioritize the health and safety of our team, customers and communities, we will be closing all vineyard vines stores Sunday, March 15th through Friday, March 27, 2020. In order to ensure that our team is taken care of, we will be paying our store employees for any previously scheduled shifts.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Rothy’s is paying all retail store employees through 3/31**
  
  “We’ve made the decision to close all of our retail stores through 3/31. ... Our primary focus remains keeping you and each member of our team feeling safe, healthy and supported in the coming days and weeks. We are doing this by paying all retail store employees through 3/31.” [Click here to read more.](#)
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

• **New Balance associates in North America will receive their regular pay and benefits during this period**
  
  “As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread, we are implementing a series of additional measures to ensure the health of our associates, customers, and communities. These measures include temporary office, factory, and owned retail closures in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe. Effective Monday, March 16, these facilities will remain closed until at least Friday, March 27. All associates in North America will receive their regular pay and benefits during this period.” [Click here to read more.]

• **Free People employees affected by store closings shall continue to be paid**
  
  “In an effort to protect our friends and families worldwide, we have decided to close all global Free People stores, effective March 15th. Those employees affected by store closings shall continue to be paid. We plan to reopen our stores on March 28th. Because this situation is complex and evolving rapidly, please be advised that this date may change. We’ll be sure to let you know.” [Click here to read more.]

• **Anthropologie will continue to pay store teams during closures**
  
  “In an effort to protect our communities, we have decided to close all of our global stores. We are planning to reopen on March 28th. We will continue to pay our store teams during this time. Because the situation is complex and evolving rapidly, our plans may change. If they do, we’ll let you know.” [Click here to read more.]

• **Altar’d State will close all boutiques and all associates will receive pay for scheduled hours during this time**
  
  “As Chairman & CEO, it’s my job to do the right thing for our Altar’d State family of guests and associates and I believe it is in your best interest to minimize exposure. Therefore, I have made the tough decision to close all boutiques effective today through March 30th. We want to take care of our Altar’d State family as best as we can; therefore, all associates will receive pay for scheduled hours during this time.” [Click here to read more.]
Retail companies are closing stores but still paying workers

- **Belk** is providing benefits and compensation to our impacted workforce during this two-week closure

  “Based on the CDC’s recommendation to limit large gatherings and in order to protect the safety of our communities, we’ve made the decision to temporarily close all stores to customers beginning March 27 through Monday, March 30. You can continue to shop any time on Belk.com or our mobile app. We understand this development can greatly impact our store associates, and we’ve taken steps to support them and their families during this time. We’re providing benefits and compensation to our impacted workforce during this two-week temporary closure.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Coach, Kate Spade, Stuart Weitzman (owned by Tapestry)** employees at closed locations will continue to receive scheduled pay and benefits during this temporary closure period

  “Tapestry, Inc., a leading New York-based house of modern luxury accessories and lifestyle brands, announced that effective at close of business today, it will temporarily close all directly operated Coach, Kate Spade and Stuart Weitzman stores in North America and Europe to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Stores will be closed through March 27th, at which time the Company will determine the appropriate next steps in light of the environment. Employees at these locations will continue to receive scheduled pay and benefits during this temporary closure period.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Crate & Barrel** will be providing pay for both our full and part-time associates

  “We’ll be doing our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities by temporarily closing all Crate and Barrel, CB2, and Hudson Grace stores in the U.S. and in Canada for 14-days beginning today, March 17 at 7pm. This careful decision is rooted in our belief of connecting with our communities. During the closure, we will be providing pay for both our full and part-time associates while working to provide additional resources to help associates who might be impacted during this challenging time.” [Click here to read more.](#)
Several sports teams in the NBA have pledged to pay hourly workers

- **Hawks**: Hawks owner Tony Ressler announced Thursday that he would implement a plan to make sure employees of State Farm Arena were paid. "We are indeed and feel strongly it's both the right thing to and good business," Ressler [said via email.](https://www.ajc.com/sports/nba/atlanta-hawks-owner-tony-ressler-pledges-to-pay-employees-in-state-farm-arena-arena-during-nba-hiatus/428d0a34-3457-433d-80a4-3f64c9f9317c)

- **Nets**: Nets owner Joe Tsai retweeted a message by guard Spencer Dinwiddie, which called on the team to "take care of the non salary arena staff."

- **Mavericks**: Mark Cuban announced Wednesday that he would set up a payment plan for his stadium's hourly workers. The team [issued their plan on Friday evening.](https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2744640-mark-cuban-pledges-to-pay-nba-employees-through-covid-19-hiatus)

- **Lakers & Clippers**: Along with the Kings, the teams that play in Staples Center have [formed a joint-plan](https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2744587-lakers-clipper-kings-nba-hiatus-employee-compensation-plan) to compensate the hundreds of part-time and contract workers that typically staff games.

- **76ers**: The hourly workers at Wells Fargo Center will be compensated during the NBA's hiatus, [according to NBC Sports Philadelphia's John Clark.](https://www.nbcSPORTS.com/nba/nba-hiatus-seasonal-workers-compensation-plan-schedule)

- **Wizards**: Owner Ted Leonsis told Capital One Arena workers that they will be paid through March 31 for any Wizards or Capitals games they were scheduled to work, [according to The Athletic’s Tarik El-Bashir.](https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2744587-lakers-clipper-kings-nba-hiatus-employee-compensation-plan)

- **Warriors**: Owner Joe Lacob told the San Francisco Chronicle Friday he [is working on a plan to help out-of-work support staff.](https://www.sfgate.com/sports/mariners/article/Warriors-owner-Joe-Lacob-pledges-1-million-to-3217779.php) The Warriors announced Friday that the organization has pledged to donate $1 million to a disaster relief fund established by the Warriors Community Foundation.

- **Raptors**: The group that owns the Raptors and other pro sports teams in Toronto, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, says it's trying to help 4,000 workers in the city, [per the Associated Press.](https://www.thesportsdaily.com/article/16801339/)</br>

- **Grizzlies**: Robert Pera and the team will be compensating all Grizzlies game night employees for any games missed through the end of the year, [according to The Daily Memphian’s Geoff Calkins.](https://www.thenews.com/article/20200316-sports-3123708-02-gp8)

- **Kings**: Sacramento will also continue paying employees during this time. In a statement, the team said, "All part-time, hourly Kings event team members will be compensated for the shifts they were previously scheduled to work in March."

- **Suns**: Phoenix [announced Friday night](https://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/nba/phoenix-suns/2020/03/13/phoenix-suns-hiatus-compensation-plan/2887069001/) that all part-time employees of the team's arena will receive financial compensation for the six remaining scheduled Suns home games and concerts and shows that have been canceled in March.

- **Spurs**: San Antonio [established a $500,000 fund](https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2744587-lakers-clipper-kings-nba-hiatus-employee-compensation-plan) that will ensure the organization's part-time employees will be paid through the end of the Spurs' and AHL's San Antonio Rampage seasons.

- **Bulls**: The United Center ownership and the Bulls will [pay game day employees](https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2744595-mick-kane-of-the-united-center-pledges-to-pay-game-day-employees-in-chicago-through-end-of-season) through the remainder of the originally scheduled season.

Thanks to Sports Illustrated for tracking this: Tracking Which NBA Teams, Players Are Helping to Pay Arena Workers

---

**Added on 3/17/2020**
Global tech companies are closing offices but still paying hourly workers

- Google promises to support their workforce and offered paid sick leave for impacted workers
  
  “Some of our offices have shifted to a work-from-home status ensuring business continuity, while others are still operating as normal. As we make these changes, we have been making sure that our hourly service vendor workers in our extended workforce who are affected by reduced work schedules are compensated for the time they would have worked.” Click here to read the article.

- Microsoft will continue to pay all our vendor hourly service providers their regular pay during this period of reduced service needs

  “We recognize the hardship that lost work can mean for hourly employees. As a result, we’ve decided that Microsoft will continue to pay all our vendor hourly service providers their regular pay during this period of reduced service needs. This is independent of whether their full services are needed. This will ensure that, in Puget Sound for example, the 4,500 hourly employees who work in our facilities will continue to receive their regular wages even if their work hours are reduced. While the work to protect public health needs to speed up, the economy can’t afford to slow down. We’re committed as a company to making public health our first priority and doing what we can to address the economic and societal impact of COVID-19. We appreciate that what’s affordable for a large employer may not be affordable for a small business, but we believe that large employers who can afford to take this type of step should consider doing so.” Click here to read the article.

- Apple’s COVID-19 response

  "All of our hourly workers will continue to receive pay in alignment with business as usual operations. We have expanded our leave policies to accommodate personal or family health circumstances created by COVID-19 — including recovering from an illness, caring for a sick loved one, mandatory quarantining, or childcare challenges due to school closures.” Click here for more.

- Airbnb commits to paying Bay Area employees working from home due to coronavirus concerns

  "Airbnb tells Bay Area employees to work from home for the next 2 weeks due to coronavirus concerns and says it will continue to pay hourly workers.” Click here for more.
Global tech companies are closing offices but still paying hourly workers

- Amazon will continue to pay employees who have been asked to work from home
  "We will continue to pay all hourly employees that support our campus in Seattle and Bellevue – from food service, to security guards to janitorial staff – during the time our employees are asked to work from home." [Click here to read the article.]

- Cisco is paying hourly workers their regular wages
  "As our communities face the issues around COVID-19, @Cisco will always stand with our teams. Thank you to all of the hourly workers who support us every day and rest assured we will continue to pay you your regular wages as we work through the latest developments." [Click here from more.]

- Facebook will pay contingent workers that cannot work
  "We are working closely with our vendors to ensure we prioritize our team’s health and safety. Facebook will pay contingent workers that cannot work due to reduced staffing requirements during voluntary work from home, when we close an office, when we choose to send an employee home, or when they are sick." [Click here to read the article.]

- Salesforce will continue to pay our vendor hourly service providers
  "All of our employees around the globe have been strongly encouraged to work from home. Given the escalation of local governments’ guidance within some of our communities, we are moving to a “hard close” of our offices in North America and EMEA through at least April 15. And we will continue to pay our vendor hourly service providers, who are an important part of our family." [Click here for more.]

- Twitter is continuing to pay hourly workers who are not able to perform their responsibilities from home
  "For contractors and hourly workers who are not able to perform their responsibilities from home, Twitter will continue to pay their labor costs to cover standard working hours while Twitter’s work-from-home guidance and/or travel restrictions related to their assigned office are in effect." [Click here for more.]
Mercadona, with the objective of protecting the health and safety of our customers and employees as well as ensuring the supply of our stores, is adopting the following measures, which will enter into force as of tomorrow, Monday 16th March 2020.

1. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CUSTOMERS
   - Customers shall be informed of the general recommendations to access stores and do their shopping, both from staff members as well as through signs, loud speaker announcements and social networks.

2. MEASURES IN THE SUPERMARKETS
   - CAPACITY: Crowd sizes at the supermarkets will be monitored and capacity and the minimum required distance between individuals will be indicated.
   - INTERIOR OF THE STORE: minimum separation of one metre between customers shall be respected, with recommendations from the store’s personnel, supported by signs reinforcing these measures, and the one-metre limits will also be marked on the ground in the Seafood area and in checkout lines.
   - HOURS: opening hours shall be from 9 am to 8 pm. However, considering the extraordinary nature of the situation, Mercadona will adapt to the changing circumstances, and if changes are made, they will be communicated as quickly as possible.

3. SUPPLY AND ASSORTMENT
   - Store will remain supplied reinforcing and ensuring the supply of basic necessities so our customers can do their daily shopping.
   - With the objective of protecting food safety, no product returns will be admitted under any circumstances.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERNAL MEASURES
   - Furthermore, Mercadona has adopted internal measures to strengthen the health and safety of its employees, including the company providing the necessary hygiene and prevention tools and the adoption of specific criteria regarding health.
   - Likewise, the daily cleaning and disinfection processes in our facilities has been reinforced with external services.

At this time, and in view of the extraordinary situation in which the country finds itself, Mercadona is adopting these extraordinary measures of collaboration to confront this crisis. We kindly ask our customers for maximum collaboration in complying with these measures.

IT WILL END. OVERCOMING FEAR TOGETHER #Covid_19 Read more here.
Free training on COVID-19 for businesses and essential workers

COVID-19 training for essential workers

We’re partnering with businesses of all sizes to protect essential workers with high-impact training delivered via text message. Together we can stop the spread, save lives, and accelerate recovery.

Get FREE training for your team today →

Training in: English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese
Contact us to inquire about additional languages

stopCOVID-19 is an NYC-based team composed of service industry veterans and technologists from ESLWorks with product, design, and engineering support from Managed by Q alumni.
Articles about COVID-19’s Impact on Low-wage and Frontline Workers

Updated March 20, 2020
Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

• **Who is most at risk in the coronavirus crisis: 24 million of the lowest-income workers**
  - Cashiers, nursing assistants, paramedics: These people are at highest risk of exposure to coronavirus — and make a median wage of less than $35,000 a year

• **We All Need Small Businesses. Don’t Let Them Die.**
  - By the time the coronavirus crisis is over, we might emerge from our homes only to find some of our favorite shops, gyms and restaurants permanently shuttered. It doesn’t need to be that way. While some of the harm has already been done, we can still prevent much of the long-lasting damage.

• **UK to pay up to 80% of workers' wages during coronavirus emergency**
  - The United Kingdom is moving to help pay wages for U.K. workers to keep the economy afloat through the coronavirus emergency, the government announced Friday. "Today I can announce that, for the first time in our history, the government is going to step in and help to pay people’s wages," Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said.

• **Danish corona-hit firms get state aid to pay 75% of salaries**
  - Denmark’s government told private companies struggling with drastic measures to curb the spread of coronavirus that it would cover 75% of employees’ salaries, if they promised not to cut staff. Under the three-month aid period that will last until June 9, the state offers to pay 75% of employees’ salaries at a maximum of 23,000 Danish crowns ($3,418) per month, while the companies pay the remaining 25%. “If there’s a big drop in activity, and production is halted, we understand the need to send home employees. But we ask you: Don’t fire them,” Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said.
Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

• **She Had to Choose: Her Epileptic Patient or Her 7-Year-Old Daughter**
  - When New York City closed its public schools, Cindy Urena, a home health aide for Sunnyside Community Services in Queens, faced a choice: stop seeing a client with severe epilepsy or leave her 7-year-old daughter alone at home. Ms. Urena, 39, earns $15 an hour, and like half of New York City’s direct care workers, relies on food stamps even when she is working. She made her choice. Now she has no income at all. Kelly Takemura faced a different problem: as the pandemic spreads, who gets care and whose care becomes inessential?

• **Unemployed, Uninsured, Uncertain**
  - For Out-of-Work Bartender and Caterer, Biggest Concern Now is Having Enough Food to Eat. Ilse Villacorta has a degree from UC Berkeley, and up until recently, she worked as a bartender and caterer. Now, she has no work, and no income. Reporter Sam Harnett went to visit her at her home in Oakland before the shelter-in-place order.

• **‘Terrified’ Package Delivery Employees Are Going to Work Sick**
  - Hour after hour, day after day, the packages keep arriving: food, medicine, clothes, toys and a million other items brought to the doorsteps and building lobbies of Americans who are hunkering down as the coronavirus sweeps the land. An increasing number of the workers sorting those boxes, loading them into trucks and then transporting and delivering them around the country have fallen sick. They have coughs, sore throats, aches and fevers — symptoms consistent with the coronavirus. Yet they are still reporting for their shifts in crowded shipping facilities and warehouses and truck depots, fearful of what will happen if they don’t.

• **Grocery Store Workers—‘Heroes to the Community’ During Coronavirus—to Get Hazard Pay**
  - Kroger announced today that it will provide a one-time bonus to every hourly frontline grocery, supply chain, manufacturing, and customer service associate, amounting to $300 for every full-time associate and $150 for every part-time associate. As Americans in multiple states have been ordered to remain in their homes for all but essential needs, many have been “panic buying” toilet paper, bottled water, and pantry items, putting supermarkets on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. On Friday, however, thousands of grocery store workers in Southern California received good news: The Albertsons, Vons, and Pavilions supermarket chains agreed to pay employees $2 more per hour.
 Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

• A pizza chain will give its workers a bigger share of the pie. Target and Walmart aren’t protecting staff amid pandemic, workers say
  • As restaurants temporarily close in the face of the public-health threat and businesses like Whole Foods Market suggest employees give vacation time to their sick co-workers, &Pizza — a 40-store East Coast chain that positions itself as a David to the Goliath of traditional pizza-delivery giants — is heading in another direction. In an email to staff on Friday night, the company’s chief executive and co-founder, Michael Lastoria, announced that the company was offering free, unlimited pizza to all 750 employees and their immediate families, as well as to all hospital workers who show identification.

• ‘They don’t care about safety’: Amazon workers struggle with pandemic demand
  • As the coronavirus spreads across America many workers are being directed to work from home but staff at Amazon and Whole Foods are being squeezed to keep up with increasing demand caused by Americans stockpiling food and household products. Amazon is the US’s largest online retailer and it also owns Whole Foods, the largest natural foods grocer in the US, and fifth largest overall in the world.

• Which Companies Still Aren’t Offering Paid Sick Days?
  • The United States is one of only two advanced economies that does not guarantee all workers paid time off to recover from an illness. One-quarter of all U.S. workers don’t have a single paid sick day. And the CDC reports that one in five food service workers—the vast majority of whom have no paid sick leave—have come in to work while sick with vomiting or diarrhea, fearing that they’d otherwise lose their jobs.

• Unemployment, the stock market, the bond market, and the nation’s economic plunge, in nine charts
  • The coronavirus crisis is about to blow up a cascade of U.S. economic charts. If the latest projections are even close to correct, the U.S. economy will see numbers so big and bad in coming months that we’ll be forced to stretch the vertical scale on charts to fit them. The highs and lows of the past decade, which seemed so critical at the time, will recede into relative flatness, dwarfed by the moves of 2020. Here are nine that, taken together, show how we’re entering difficult territory.

• ‘I’m Very Scared’: Janitors on Front Lines of Coronavirus Outbreak
  • As fears of the new coronavirus’s spread have grown, so has the burden placed on janitors and cleaners, some of the lowest-paid workers in the U.S. Some say they are anxious about exposure to the virus as they clean the toilets, kitchens and surfaces touched by dozens or hundreds of people a day in offices, stores and restaurants. Many lack paid sick days, according to workers and employers, fanning their worries about falling ill. They say their work is now harder and riskier than before, yet the pay often remains the same.

Added on 3/23/2020
Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

• **Walmart to hire 150,000 people amid coronavirus, to give $550 million in cash bonuses**
  - Walmart (WMT), the nation’s largest private employer, plans to hire 150,000 hourly associates in the U.S. and announced $550 million in cash bonuses to reward workers amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that’s wreaked havoc on the economy resulting in job losses. “Not only are we not laying off people, but we are in a position where we are also going to be hiring an additional 150,000 new associates,” Dan Bartlett, Walmart’s Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs, said on a call with reporters, touting that the big-box retailer has streamlined its process to do one-day hiring “within hours.”

• **Barnes & Noble Implies Coronavirus Layoffs Are Inevitable**
  - National book chain Barnes & Noble preemptively disclosed its plan for a forthcoming layoff strategy to employees on Tuesday, ahead of what seem like inevitable store closures due to the national economic chaos spurred by the global coronavirus pandemic. "With the closure of stores, we are obliged to make the hardest of choices," CEO James Daunt wrote in a note to staff and obtained by VICE. "The truth is that we cannot close our doors and continue to pay our employees in the manner of Apple, Nike, Patagonia and REI. They can do this because they have the resources necessary; we, and most retailers of our sort, do not.”

• **Amazon Prime Will Falter During Coronavirus Crisis, Experts Say**
  - More than half of American households are Amazon Prime members, and, for better or worse, have come to rely on the service for many of their everyday needs. In the coming weeks and months as coronavirus continues to spread, many Americans, holed up in their homes and apartments for purposes of quarantine or social distancing, will rely increasingly on Amazon’s delivery services to fill all of their material needs. This will undoubtedly put increased strain on the workers who pack and deliver Amazon products, and leave them vulnerable to Covid-19.

• **Coronavirus Will Hit American Hourly Workers Extra Hard**
  - Americans everywhere are starting to panic about the recent outbreak of coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19. Families are hoarding food and other supplies. Companies are encouraging their employees to work for home. And people are wondering what life will be like should they actually need to self-quarantine.
Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

• ‘If I Caught the Coronavirus, Would You Want Me Making Your Next Meal?’
  • One of McDonald’s values is to “invest in all the people our success rests on.” But in the video above, a shift manager at a McDonald’s restaurant in Kansas City, Mo., asks why a company that earned $5.3 billion last year can’t guarantee paid sick leave for all of its workers, especially during the coronavirus outbreak.

• Grocery store workers in Minnesota classified as emergency workers
  • Grocery store workers in Minnesota will now have access to free child care after the state classified them as emergency workers during the coronavirus outbreak, NBC News reported. An executive order signed by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz on Sunday stated that emergency workers deemed “critical” to the state’s response to the outbreak would be provided child care. The workers affected include “providers of healthcare, emergency medical services, long-term and post-acute care; law enforcement personnel; personnel providing correctional services; public health employees; firefighters and other first responders; and court personnel.”

• Small Business Relief Tracker: Funding, Grants And Resources For Business Owners Grappling With Coronavirus
  • Some 30 million American small businesses are high on the coronavirus’ list of victims. Nearly half of these companies say the pandemic is to blame for unprecedented revenue declines, and with no clear end in sight, the possibility of temporary closures has become a reality for many. In an effort to help business owners find financial relief, we’ve rounded up all of the government agencies, private companies and nonprofit organizations that are extending support. We’ll be adding to this list as the situation develops, so check back for updates.

• Netflix Creates $100 Million Coronavirus Relief Fund
  • Netflix has created a $100 million relief fund to help members of the creative community who have been left unemployed and without a way to earn an income during the coronavirus crisis. The streaming giant said the bulk of the funds will go toward supporting laid-off crew members. “The COVID-19 crisis is devastating for many industries, including the creative community. Almost all television and film production has now ceased globally — leaving hundreds of thousands of crew and cast without jobs,” Netflix’s chief content officer Ted Sarandos said in a statement. “These include electricians, carpenters and drivers, many of whom are paid hourly wages and work on a project-to-project basis.”
Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

• Plight of Retail Workers: ‘I’m Scared to Go to Work’
  • The Macy’s in Manhattan’s Herald Square opened its doors to customers at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, as planned. Dozens of employees staffed the cash registers, cosmetics counter and shoe department. Many were frightened. Three days before, the company said that a worker at the store had tested positive for the coronavirus. “Why are your stores open?!” one person wrote on the Macy’s Facebook page.

• As layoffs skyrocket due to coronavirus, unemployment insurance safety net shows signs of strain
  • Laid-off workers are struggling to apply for unemployment aid as government websites crash and phone lines have hours-long waits. Then some are finding they do not even qualify for help.

• Cripple by coronavirus restaurants want assistance from the same governments that shut them down
  • From New York to California, governments have told restaurant operators to shutdown their dining rooms to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The orders have placed an untold number of workers on the unemployment line and cut off the primary source of revenue for restaurants.

• They Clean the Buildings Workers Are Fleeing. But Who’s Protecting Them?
  • SAN FRANCISCO — The rumor unsettled Deborah Santamaria. A fellow janitor at 555 California Street, a 52-story office tower in San Francisco’s financial district, told her he heard that a floor of the building was being closed because a worker had contracted the novel coronavirus.

• Minnesota and Vermont Just Classified Grocery Clerks as Emergency Workers
  • Shawn Lynch, assistant manager of a grocery store in Brattleboro, Vermont, restocks cases of water during an overnight shift. His team worked through the night to make sure the shelves were full for the next day’s shoppers to buy supplies during the coronavirus outbreak. As the rapidly spreading coronavirus pandemic closes schools across the country, more and more parents are juggling working from home with caring full-time for their children. But working from home isn’t possible for emergency personnel like paramedics, nurses, and public health workers who are on the front lines of the fight against the virus.
Health care workers are at the greatest risk — they can encounter diseases and infections daily and typically work in close proximity to one another and their patients. Many are already under quarantine because of exposure to the virus. Read here.

Restaurants, retailers and other industries that rely on low-wage labor are encouraged to embrace paid sick leave. Read here.

The Workers Who Face the Greatest Coronavirus Risk

By Lazero Gamio March 15, 2020

The Companies Putting Profits Ahead of Public Health

As the coronavirus spreads, the public interest requires employers to abandon their longstanding resistance to paid sick leave.

By The Editorial Board

March 14, 2020

Most American restaurants do not offer paid sick leave. Workers who fall sick face a simple choice: Work and get paid or stay home and get stiffed. Not surprisingly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2014 that fully 20 percent of food service workers had come to work at least once in the previous year “while sick with vomiting or diarrhea.”

Added on 3/17/2020
Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

- **Walmart, Uber and Others Tweak Sick-Leave Policies as Coronavirus Spreads**
  - Walmart, Uber and other major companies announced new policies this week to grant paid leave or other compensation to workers who contract the new coronavirus or are quarantined by order of the government or their companies. The changes could help hourly and gig-economy workers in the service industry who do not normally receive paid time off, and who would bear an especially difficult burden of lost wages. But the policies may not go far enough to protect delivery people, store clerks, restaurant workers, taxi drivers and others whose public-facing and often low-paying jobs cannot be done remotely.

- **Avoiding Coronavirus May Be a Luxury Some Workers Can’t Afford**
  - Stay home from work if you get sick. See a doctor. Use a separate bathroom from the people you live with. Prepare for schools to close, and to work from home. These are measures the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended to slow a coronavirus outbreak in the United States. Yet these are much easier to do for certain people — in particular, high-earning professionals. Service industry workers, like those in restaurants, retail, child care and the gig economy, are much less likely to have paid sick days, the ability to work remotely or employer-provided health insurance.

- **These Philly workers are effectively jobless as the coronavirus shuts down their industries**
  - Shephard, 33, cleans homes for a living, focusing on spaces that are rented through Airbnb. But as the new coronavirus spreads around the world, travel has ground nearly to a halt and the hotel, restaurant, and tourism industry is bracing for impact. It’s trickled down to hourly workers like Shephard, a mother of two who lives in Northeast Philadelphia. She hasn’t been able to line up jobs.

- **Job losses, evictions and utility cutoffs: Being poor amid COVID-19 outbreak**
  - Demetrice Taylor works as a clerk at 7-Eleven in downtown Richmond, but with schools around the state closed for at least two weeks, she said that’s about to change. “Yeah I’m quitting,” she said as she walked down the street with her 4-year-old daughter who attends a public pre-school, “because my kids come first.” Her job provides no paid sick days, no family leave and no alternative to care for her daughter, she said.
Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

- **Paid sick leave: Who gets it during the coronavirus outbreak**
  - There’s growing consensus that Americans need to stay home to help prevent the spread of covid-19, especially if they feel sick or have a suspected or confirmed case of the coronavirus that causes it. The health of the nation comes first, experts say, but will workers still get paid? About a quarter of U.S. workers currently get no paid sick leave at all. Many are low wage workers who live paycheck to paycheck. On Saturday, the House passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The bill, supported by President Trump and headed to the Senate, aims to give paid leave to workers who didn’t have it and extend paid leave for workers who only got a few days. These benefits are not forever. They would only apply to workers stuck at home due to the coronavirus.

- **Low-Wage Workers Struggle as Coronavirus Concerns Spread**: New York City’s hourly, tip-dependent employees lose work; some still show up despite fears of getting sick
  - New York City’s lowest-paid workers are already feeling the squeeze as concerns over coronavirus exposure keep customers away from restaurants, taxis and other businesses.

- **Workers at national restaurant chains are not covered by new sick leave bill**
  - Early Saturday morning, the House passed an emergency coronavirus relief bill that guarantees sick leave to some workers. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who negotiated the details with the White House, touted the rare bipartisan compromise meant to benefit all Americans. But the bill has some glaring exceptions. The paid-leave provisions apply only to employers with 500 or fewer employees.

- **Lack of paid leave will leave millions of US workers vulnerable to coronavirus | Coronavirus outbreak**
  - For over 30 years, Joyce Barnes has worked as a home healthcare aide in Richmond, Virginia, without any paid sick days. She makes $8.25 an hour and often works through illnesses because she can’t afford to lose income from taking the time off.

- **Coronavirus rocks America’s restaurants and this chart shows just how bad it has gotten**
  - Coronavirus has very likely sickened the bottom lines of U.S. restaurants this quarter as people stay home due to being infected, working from home or practicing social distancing. The percentage change in the number of seated diners at U.S. restaurants has progressively worsened — and have declined — since March 1, according to new data from OpenTable (see chart below). For March 13, OpenTable data shows the number of seated diners crashed nearly 35%

*Added on 3/17/2020*
Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

• **As coronavirus spreads, housekeepers in L.A. declare staying home 'a luxury'**
  - For years, the housekeepers have met every morning at a Westwood cafe for coffee and conversation before starting their workday. They talk about their children and grandchildren, family back in Central America and problems with husbands or work. The chats have served as a kind of therapy. But in the past month, their numbers at the cafe have begun to dwindle — courtesy of an unwanted visitor: fear over the coronavirus.

• **'Last man standing': Bay Area nonprofits that help the vulnerable try to push on during coronavirus**
  - On Thursday morning, St. Anthony’s Executive Director Jose Ramirez was on the job at 5 a.m., packing lunches and setting up curbside tents where hundreds of struggling folks, many of them homeless, would soon be lining up for lunch. As chief of a 200-person social service organization in the Tenderloin, this isn’t the sort of work Ramirez typically does. But with St. Anthony’s volunteering program suspended because of coronavirus concerns — it typically has 100 volunteers a day — employees are doing multiple jobs.

• **Ohio boosts, speeds up unemployment benefits to deal with coronavirus crisis - Cincinnati Business Courier**
  - Ohio announced expedited public benefits for those affected by the coronavirus 2019, including immediate unemployment compensation for employees of businesses covered by the state's order to shut down bars and restaurants at 9 p.m. Sunday.

• **A Frantic Few Days for Restaurants Is Only the Beginning**
  - “I’ve been telling my staff for three weeks, guys, get ready for a big hit,” Tom Colicchio said. “This is terrible. This is the end of the restaurant business as we know it.”

• **New York's Nightlife Shuttered to Curb Coronavirus**
  - New York City’s renowned restaurant and nightlife industries — global destinations and trendsetters for generations — awoke Monday to a devastating new world, finding themselves all but shut down in an open-ended battle against a microscopic threat.

• **Amazon to hire 100,000 workers as online orders surge on coronavirus worries**
  - Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) on Monday said it would hire 100,000 warehouse and delivery workers in the United States to deal with a surge in online orders, as many consumers have turned to the web to meet their needs during the coronavirus outbreak.

Added on 3/17/2020