



**GOOD
JOBS
INSTITUTE**

COVID-19

Worker Relief Funds,
Company Actions,
and Impact on Frontline Workers

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, 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 Resources - Relief Funds and Companies Hiring: We have compiled a list of emergency relief funds—by city and by profession. If you need help, or if you can donate at this time, this list is for you. We are also posting lists of companies hiring at this time for those who are looking for work. 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 examples on efforts to ensure worker and customer safety in this pandemic, including a free training app for companies with frontline workforces.

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

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Worker Relief Funds by State

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 for your local United Way fund.](#)

▪ 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](#)
 - [California Disaster Relief Fund \(for undocumented workers\)](#)
 - [California Immigrant Resilience 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 State (cont.)

- **D.C.**
 - [DC Small Business Recovery Microgrants](#)
- **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 Fund](#)
- **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](#)
 - [State of Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)
 - [Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund Application Information - City of Cambridge, MA](#)
 - [Cambridge Artist Relief 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 State (cont.)

- **New Hampshire**
 - [Granite United Way's Response to COVID-19 | Granite United Way](#)
- **New Jersey**
 - [United Way of NNJ :: 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](#)
 - [Help Support Home Care Workers in New York State](#)
- **North Carolina**
 - [Triangle Restaurant Workers Relief Fund](#)
 - [Donate Now | High Country COVID-19 Relief Fund by High Country United Way](#)
 - [NC Restaurant Workers Relief Fund](#)
- **North Dakota**
 - [Missouri Slope Areawide United Way Emergency Relief Fund](#)
- **Ohio**
 - [Community Response Fund](#)
- **Oklahoma**
 - [Tulsa Area COVID-19 Response Fund Now Accepting Donations](#)
 - [Oklahoma City Small Business Continuity Program](#)
- **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](#)
 - [Philadelphia COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund | Department of Commerce](#)
 - [Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association COVID-19 Hospitality Workers Relief Fund](#)
- **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**
 - [COVID-19 Response Fund](#)
 - [Seattle Hospitality Emergency Fund](#)
 - [Seattle City Government Resource List](#)
 - [A List of Resources to Help Seattle's Small Businesses Amid the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
 - [The Plate Fund](#)
- **West Virginia**
 - [United Way of West Virginia Community Response Fund](#)
- **Wisconsin**
 - [COVID-19 Coronavirus and your Community Foundation](#)
- **Wyoming**
 - [COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund](#)

Amalgamated Foundation: Families and Workers Fund

- The Ford Foundation, Schmidt Futures, Open Society Foundations, The JPB Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Amalgamated Foundation, and others are partnering to create a [rapid response fund](#) dedicated to helping the workers, families, and communities most devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- With initial commitments over \$7 million, the fund ultimately aims to raise \$20 million to provide flexible funding to organizations working to prevent workers and families from sinking deeper into poverty during the initial months of the pandemic, and to support policy and advocacy efforts that center workers and families in long-term economic recovery.



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](#)
- [National Restaurant Association Employee Relief Fund: Apply for Aid](#)
- [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](#)
- [National Restaurant Association Restaurant Employee Relief Fund](#)
- [NC Restaurant Workers Relief Fund](#)

Healthcare Workers

- [Center for Disaster Philanthropy \(CDP\) COVID-19 Response Fund](#)
- [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Response Fund](#)
- [First Responders First: Supporting Healthcare Workers in the Fight Against Coronavirus](#)
- [Fundraiser for CAF America by Flexport.org : Frontline Responders Fund](#)
- [PHI PPE fund: Help Support Home Care Workers in New York State](#)

Military

- [The PenFed Foundation | Covid 19 Emergency Assistance Program](#)

Artists/Entertainment

- Good list of relief resources here:
 - [COVID-19 Emergency Funding and Artist Resources](#)
 - [List of Arts Resources During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
 - [Coronavirus: State-by-State Resource Guide for Music Professionals Who Need Help](#)
- Relief Fund for Hollywood Support Staff
 - [Relief Fund for Hollywood Support Staff organized by Liz Alper](#)
- Resources for Freelance Artists / Journalists
 - [COVID-19 & Freelance Artists & Freelancers Relief Fund](#)
 - [MusiCares Coronavirus Relief Fund | MusiCares](#)
 - [SAG/AFTRA Foundation COVID-19 Disaster Fund](#)
 - [Sweet Relief Musicians Fund COVID-19 Fund](#)
 - [Microloans for Journalists](#)
- Resources for Entertainment industry
 - [Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Assistance Fund.](#)
 - [Motion Picture and Television Fund](#)
 - [Musicians' Corona Relief Fund Application](#)
 - [Actors Fund: Home](#)
 - [Entertainment Industry Foundation Covid 19 Response Fund](#)
 - [Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grants COVID-19 Fund](#)

Domestic Workers

- [National Domestic Workers Alliance Coronavirus Care Fund](#)

Hotel & Retail Workers

- [AHLA Foundation COVID-19 Response Resources](#)

Relief for Small Businesses



- [List Of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Small Business Relief Programs](#)
 - Small businesses have been hit hard by mandatory closures and safety measures required to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).
 - In a March 18 letter to President Trump, the National Restaurant Association estimated that the restaurant industry would lose \$225 billion over the next three months alone, leading to the loss of five to seven million jobs. Many other industries are suffering, too.
 - Today In: Personal Finance
 - But businesses have a growing number of resources and relief programs to turn to, including emergency funding from the government, protection from eviction and business loan deferment. The FDIC is encouraging banks to work with customers to provide coronavirus-related assistance, related to both personal and business finances.
 - Below is a list of federal, state and lender-specific support to pursue, which will be updated to include programs as they're released and refined.



- [Small Business Resources For COVID-19](#)
 - Our team is paying close attention to the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, and its impact on small business owners like you across the country.
 - **Please reach out to us if you need assistance for your business, so that we can discuss your particular situation and figure out ways in which we can help. If you're a California small business loan customer, [contact Hyder](#). If you're a small business advising customer, [contact Peter](#)**
 - We're keenly aware of the fact that businesses are closing for weeks at a time, and those who aren't are seeing major hits to their bottom line. It's hitting businesses, and it's hurting the workers who most rely on their paychecks. 40% of Americans who work service-industry related jobs have no paid sick leave, and fewer than 25% of them can afford to take it, according to data compiled by the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS). These are also the jobs – retail, housekeeping, food, and entertainment, etc. – that are most likely to put those workers in broad contact with others; so protecting employee health is not only important for these businesses long term, but also for community health now.



- [How to Apply for the Coronavirus Business Loan](#)
 - Small business owners looking for financial aid and relief due to the economic effects of the current coronavirus outbreak may want to apply for a [business loan](#) through the Small Business Administration's loan program.
 - [President Trump has announced](#) that he's instructed the SBA to exercise its authority in extending low-cost capital to small business owners through the Economic Disaster Injury Loan program.
 - He also requested that Congress fund the program with an additional infusion of \$50 billion, on top of the \$7 billion authorized last week for the SBA's disaster-relief program for small businesses, nonprofits, and other entities.
 - The question is, how can you apply for and access Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funds, and when will they be made available?
 - As of March 19, a number of states have been declared "disasters" due to the coronavirus outbreak. The SBA [also updated its EIDL criteria](#), so that loans will be available statewide following an economic injury declaration (rather than on a county-by-county basis). Affected businesses in these states can begin applying for EIDLs.

Relief for Small Businesses: Navigating Loan Resources



U.S. Small Business
Administration

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources](#)



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS
& ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- [Guide to the CARES Act - US Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship](#)



U.S. Senate Committee on
Small Business & Entrepreneurship

- [The Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act](#)



List of Companies Currently Hiring

Updated April 18, 2020

List of Companies Currently Hiring

- LinkedIn is curating a running list of companies that are hiring – from CVS to Kroger to Salesforce and CapitalOne. See full list [here](#).



Here's who's hiring right now Share

 By Andrew Seaman, Editor at LinkedIn

Updated 3 hours ago ⓘ

Some industries — from shipping to online learning — are hiring to meet coronavirus-related demand. Here are some of the [companies hiring right now](#).

- Instacart says it's looking to hire **300,000 contract workers** over the next three months.
- Amazon says it's looking to hire **175,000 new workers** for its fulfillment centers and delivery network.
- CVS Health is hiring **50,000 employees** to serve in various capacities across its business.
- Walmart is hiring **50,000 workers** for its distribution and fulfillment centers.
- Dollar General says it's looking to add **50,000 employees** by the end of April.
- FedEx is hiring **35,000 people** for essential roles.
- Allied Universal is hiring more than **30,000 people** for open positions.
- Pizza Hut is hiring **30,000 permanent** employees to serve as drivers, shift leaders, cooks and managers.
- Ace Hardware is hiring **30,000 people** to work in its stores nationwide.
- Lowe's is hiring **30,000 employees** to meet the demand created by the coronavirus.
- Dollar Tree, which is also the parent company of Family Dollar, is hiring **25,000 workers** for its stores and distribution centers.
- Walgreens is hiring **25,000 employees** for permanent and temporary roles.
- Papa John's is hiring **20,000 workers** to meet demand.
- 7-Eleven is hiring up to **20,000 employees** due to increased demand.
- Kroger is looking to hire an additional **20,000 workers** across the U.S.
- See the full list by [clicking here](#).

Looking for other opportunities? Check out posts with [#NowHiring](#). You can also use that hashtag in your posts about open positions. More positions are also listed on [the LinkedIn jobs page](#).

- Other resources / articles on hiring

- [Startups Actively Hiring During COVID-19](#)
- [Good news for Bay Area: Tech hiring despite the coronavirus](#)
- [Coronavirus hiring: CVS, Walmart, Zoom among companies seeking workers](#)
- [30 Major US Companies Hiring Now to Meet Coronavirus Demand](#)
- [18 companies hiring remote workers amid the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- [HospitalityLink Job Board: Jobs](#)



COVID-19 Company Actions

Updated March 18, 2020

Note: This section is a reflection of early company actions during the COVID crisis.

Our goal was to capture the first companies to act with care and respect for their employees by paying them despite store closures.

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 PARKER

- **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

- **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

- **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.

- **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.](#)

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

AWAY

- **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

- **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



Ann Taylor
LOFT
Lou & Grey
Lane Bryant
Cacique
Catherines
Justice

- **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

- **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

- **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**

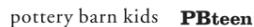


"Since 1851, our community has been at the heart of everything we do at Kiehl's. In the spirit of being good neighbors and to protect our store teams and communities through this difficult time, effective immediately we will close our stores nationwide today, until further notice. We want you to know 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**

P E R R Y E L L I S

“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**

U R B A N O U T F I T T E R S

“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

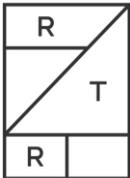


PHILLIPS-VAN HEUSEN CORPORATION

- **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

- **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

- **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.](#)



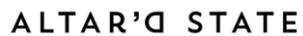
- **Free People employees affected by store closings shall continue to be paid**

“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.](#)

The logo for Tapestry, featuring the word "tapestry" in a lowercase, sans-serif font on a yellow background. Below it, in smaller text, are the brands "COACH | kate spade | STUART WEITZMAN".

- **Coach, Kate Spade, Stuart Wiseman (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.](#)

The logo for Crate & Barrel, featuring the words "Crate&Barrel" in a bold, sans-serif font.

- **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](#).
- **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](#).
- **Lakers & Clippers:** Along with the Kings, the teams that play in Staples Center have [formed a joint-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](#).
- **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](#).
- **Warriors:** Owner Joe Lacob told the *San Francisco Chronicle* Friday [he is working on a plan to help out-of-work support staff](#). 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](#).
- **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](#).
- **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](#) 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](#) 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](#) through the remainder of the originally scheduled season.

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

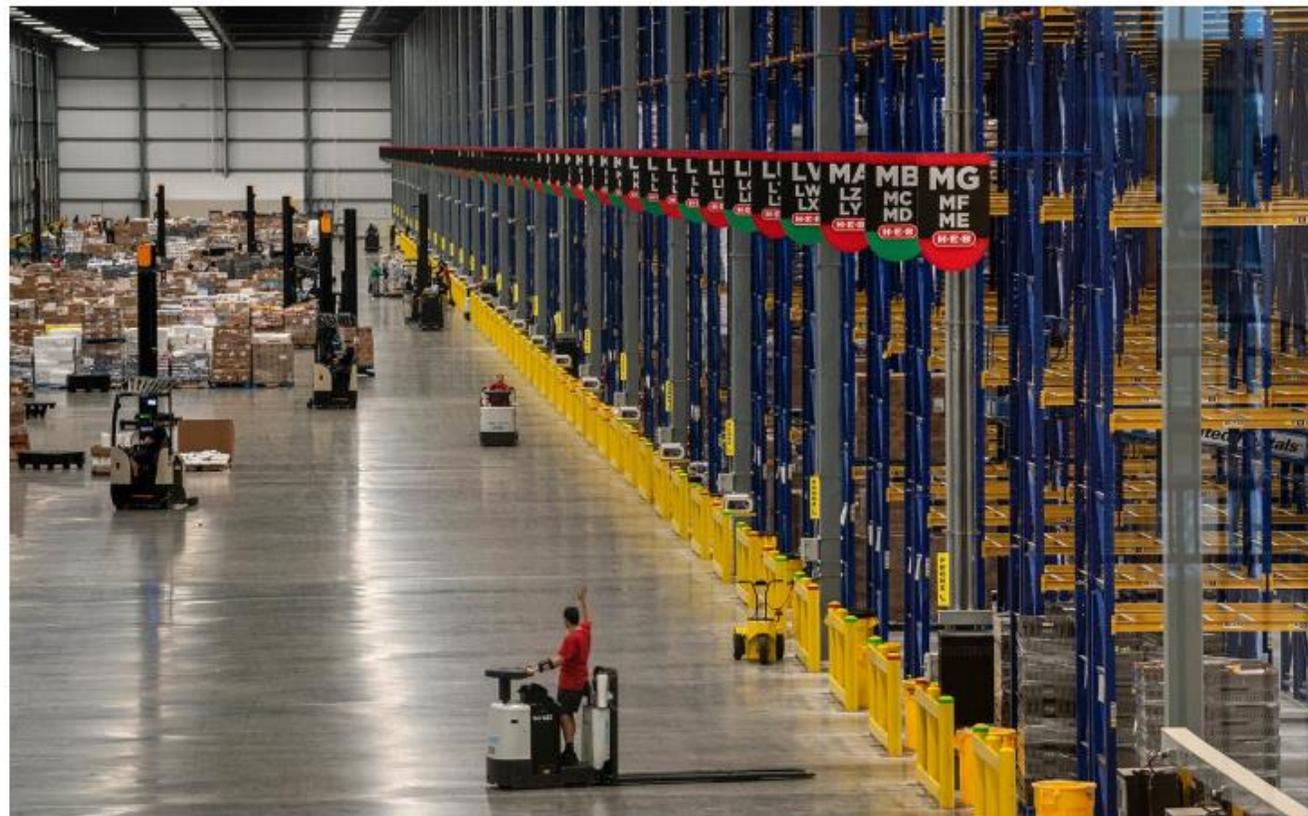
- Furthermore, Mercadona has adopted internal measures to strengthen the health and safety of its employees, including the company providing the necessary hygiene and prevention tools and the adoption of specific criteria regarding health.
- Likewise, the daily cleaning and disinfection processes in 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.

FOOD & DRINK

Inside the Story of How H-E-B Planned for the Pandemic

The grocer started communicating with Chinese counterparts in January and was running tabletop simulations a few weeks later. (But nothing prepared it for the rush on toilet paper.)



H-E-B employees work at the new super-regional warehouse in San Antonio on March 21, 2020.

Photograph by Tamir Kalifa

Free training on COVID-19 for businesses and essential workers



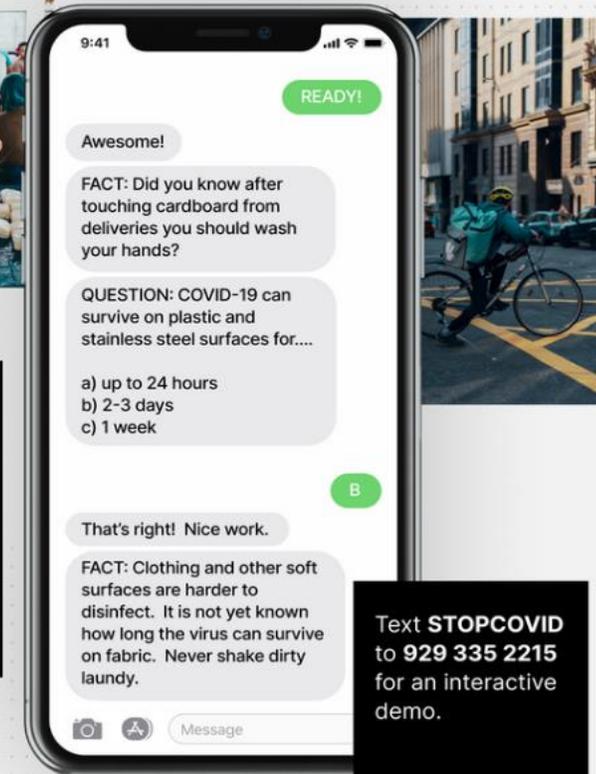
COVID-19 training for essential workers

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**
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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 April 18, 2020

From the Good Jobs Institute

Harvard Business Review

OPERATIONS

How Can't-Close Retailers Are Keeping Workers Safe

by Sarah Kalloch and Zeynep Ton

March 30, 2020

Summary Save Share Comment 2 Print \$8.95 Buy Copies



Workers at grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, and other “can’t close” retail businesses are working overtime and risking their own health to keep the rest of us in food, medicine, and toilet paper. The companies they work for need to take care of them in order to keep both them and us safe.

It isn’t easy to balance well-stocked shelves with the safety of employees and customers, and there isn’t much time to learn. So there will definitely be mistakes along the way. But based on our research and work, we think the operational practices and values of the retailers we call “good jobs companies” can provide guidance to others. This is no coincidence. The various things good jobs companies do differently from other companies are all designed to make their frontline employees so valuable and productive that their contributions more than repay the greater wages, benefits, and training they receive. The resulting dedication and adaptiveness are exactly what companies need to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Below are some of the practices of good jobs companies — in particular, Costco, Mercadona, H-E-B, and Mud Bay — that can be adopted to keep customers and employees safe right now:

- Focus and simplify to reduce workloads.
- Adopt clear safety standards.
- Empower and continuously improve.
- Operate with slack.
- Show respect.
- Prioritize customers and employees over shareholders.

Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

- [Big Business Pledged Gentler Capitalism. It's Not Happening in a Pandemic.](#)
 - Last August, the chief executives of 181 of America's largest corporations signed a document pledging their commitment to run their companies for the benefit of workers and communities, and not just for shareholders. Some pundits celebrated the statement from the Business Roundtable as a historical milestone, the moment when corporate executives demonstrated sensitivity to public anger over economic inequality. But others dismissed the document as a canny public relations move: So long as executive pay remained tied to stock prices, shareholder interest would remain supreme.
- [27-year-old grocery store clerk kept working because she wanted to help people. Then she died from coronavirus.](#)
 - A 27-year-old grocery store clerk from Maryland wanted to keep working through the coronavirus pandemic, even though her job put her at risk. Leilani Jordan had a disability, but she told her mom she wanted to continue working at Giant Food because she wanted to help people, CBS affiliate WUSA-TV reports. However, Jordan's last day at work was March 16. Giant Food officials said on March 28, the store learned that Jordan was sick. She was hospitalized with coronavirus symptoms and tragically lost her battle with the disease, Giant Food confirmed to CBS News.
- [More than half of retail and grocery workers can't take paid sick leave](#)
 - Grocery store, retail and fast food workers are on the front lines of the coronavirus crisis. But the majority of workers keeping America fed during the pandemic can't take a paid day off from work when they get sick, and women are less likely to have access to paid sick leave than men, according to new research from the Shift Project at the University of California. Prior to the coronavirus crisis, around 55% of workers at some of the largest grocery, food service, big box, and retail stores in the country said they have no access to paid sick leave, according to a survey of 30,000 workers. Only 8% of workers surveyed said they could take two weeks off with pay.
- [22 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits in the last four weeks](#)
 - As businesses remain closed during the coronavirus pandemic, an unrelenting jobs crisis continues to push Americans onto unemployment rolls. Another 5.2 million workers filed for their first week of unemployment benefits last week, according to the US Department of Labor, bringing the total number of Americans who have filed initial jobless claims to around 22 million, or roughly 13.5% of the labor force, since March 14. Overall, the last four weeks have marked the largest and most dramatic rise in claims on record since the Labor Department started tracking the data in 1967. It is straining state unemployment agencies' ability to handle the crush of filers and threatening to drain some states' unemployment trust funds in coming weeks.

Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

- [Free expert help for small businesses trying to navigate this disaster](#)

- In a race to save their companies, small business owners have been scrambling to stay afloat while also trying to navigate a complex web of federal and state aid and figure out their legal options. Many have had to do it all on their own because they can't afford expensive lawyers, accountants and business consultants. And most are facing a cash crunch made worse by the fact that they're still waiting on payments for jobs completed before the coronavirus shutdown.

- [US retail sales plunged 8.7% in March, deepest drop on record](#)

- Americans aren't buying much beyond food right now, and that's devastating huge swaths of the retail industry. US retail sales slumped 8.7% in March, their worst monthly decline on record in the data available from the Census Bureau, which dates back to 1992. Excluding autos and gas, retail sales fell by 3.1%. While retail trade fell overall, one category stood out: grocery store sales surged 26.7% in March. And sales at non-store retailers, a category that would include e-commerce sites like Amazon (AMZN), increased 3.1%.

- [Smithfield Foods in South Dakota is now largest coronavirus hot spot in US](#)

- A team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has arrived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to help with the Smithfield Foods coronavirus hot spot, which has become the biggest single source of cases in the United States. Eighty of South Dakota's 180 new COVID-19 cases are employees of the meat-processing company, bringing the total to 518 Smithfield Foods employees who have tested positive. There are also now 126 total cases of non-employees that became infected when they came into contact with a Smithfield employee, according to the South Dakota Department of Health.

- [Coronavirus Crisis Underlines Weak Spots in US Economic System](#)

- An indelible image from the Great Depression features a well-dressed family seated with their dog in a comfy car, smiling down from an oversize billboard on weary souls standing in line at a relief agency. “World’s highest standard of living,” the billboard boasts, followed by a tagline: “There’s no way like the American Way.” The economic shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic has suddenly hurled the country back to that dislocating moment captured in 1937 by the photographer Margaret Bourke-White. In the updated 2020 version, lines of cars stretch for miles to pick up groceries from a food pantry; jobless workers spend days trying to file for unemployment benefits; renters and homeowners plead with landlords and mortgage bankers for extensions; and outside hospitals, ill patients line up overnight to wait for virus testing.

Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

- [Women have been hit hard by the coronavirus labor market: Their story is worse than industry-based data suggest](#)
 - Since March 15, 15.1 million workers in the United States have filed for unemployment insurance. Tomorrow, the latest initial unemployment insurance claims will be released by the Department of Labor for the week ending April 11, and estimates suggest that there could be another 4.5 million initial claims reported. These top-line numbers are vital for understanding what is going on in the economy and the extent of the economic insecurity millions of workers and their families are experiencing. But what is less clear is who these workers are and where they work. While national statistics that directly report the demographic characteristics of UI claimants will not be available for months, we use national employment data from March and preliminary state UI reports through April to begin to answer those questions. We find that job losses and furloughs have disproportionately affected women. This is the result of two factors: Women are more concentrated in sectors that experienced more job loss, and women also tended to see more job loss than men within these sectors.
- [Almost No Grocery Store Workers Have Adequate Paid Sick Leave, New Survey Finds](#)
 - Grocery workers are putting their health on the line to do the essential work of serving others during the coronavirus pandemic. Some have already died of COVID-19. But if these essential workers get sick or are exposed to the virus, most wouldn't have enough paid time off to quarantine, according to a new study.
- [Ai-jen Poo: Domestic Workers Deserve Respect Amid COVID-19](#)
 - How we take care of each other will be what we remember from the coronavirus pandemic. The neighbor who checks in on the older person living alone in her building. The way my stepdaughter's school community has banded together to support one another through homeschooling. Every night here in Chicago, the city gives thanks to the health care workers by applauding them from our windows at 8 p.m.—an anthem of gratitude for those who take care of us.
- [In biggest turnout yet, 10,000 hit hard by economic effects of coronavirus seek San Antonio Food Bank help](#)
 - In perhaps the most sobering reminder yet of the economic fallout caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the San Antonio Food Bank aided about 10,000 households Thursday in a record-setting giveaway at a South Side flea market. "It was a rough one today," said Food Bank president and CEO Eric Cooper after the largest single-day distribution in the nonprofit's 40-year history. "We have never executed on as large of a demand as we are now."

Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

▪ [Coronavirus Economy: Companies Are Firing the Wrong People](#)

- The coronavirus crisis will transform the global economy in ways that are hard to anticipate. Consider, for example, automation: As executives face difficult decisions about what to do with their workforces, might they opt for more machines over humans? And what will be the longer-term effect on employment, business and overall prosperity? Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, both on the faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spend a lot of their time thinking about such things. They have written three books together on how technologies such as artificial intelligence will change the nature of work and management.

▪ [If Robots Steal So Many Jobs, Why Aren't They Saving Us Now?](#)

- MODERN CAPITALISM HAS never seen anything quite like the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. In a matter of months, the deadly contagious bug has spread around the world, hobbling any economy in its path. In the United States, where consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of economic activity, commerce has come to a standstill as people stay home to slow the virus' spread. Hotels and restaurants and airlines have taken massive hits; Delta has cut its flight capacity by 70 percent. One in five US households has already lost work. And that's all because of the vulnerabilities of the human worker. When we get sick—or we have to shelter in place to avoid getting sick—the work that depends on people grinds to a stop.

▪ [Grocery stores turn to robots during the coronavirus](#)

- Local grocers and big chains alike are deploying robots to clean floors, stock shelves and deliver groceries to shoppers during the coronavirus. Grocers are searching for ways to reduce pressure on store workers and increase efficiency amid a surge of shoppers visiting stores and ordering online during the crisis. They believe robots and AI offer solutions that can help them bring down costs and improve store operations. "There's strong interest in moving rapidly in this direction because everyone knows they need to raise their game to stay competitive and it's ultimately more cost effective to automate than staff up, especially in today's labor market," said Bill Bishop, co-founder of retail and grocery consulting firm Brick Meets Click.

▪ ['It feels like a war zone': As more of them die, grocery workers increasingly fear showing up at work](#)

- Doug Preszler wasn't thinking about risk when he took a cashier job at a regional supermarket in eastern Iowa. But five months in, he has found himself at the forefront of a global crisis with little training or protection — save for the pocket-size bottle of hand sanitizer and Ziploc full of disposable gloves he brings from home each day. The 51-year-old has told himself not to live in fear yet concedes he increasingly is. Even the most routine tasks are fraught: Accepting bills and giving change scare him the most, Preszler says. And he has run through so much hand sanitizer that his skin is cracking.

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- [Grocery Workers Say Inconsiderate Shoppers Are Endangering Them In The Pandemic](#)
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a lot of guidance to the public about how to stay safe during the coronavirus pandemic. But as far as Aaron Squeo can tell, a lot of grocery shoppers haven't gotten the memos. Squeo works in the meat department of a Kroger supermarket in Michigan. He knows of several grocery workers who've tested positive for COVID-19 and one in his area who died. He worries that the behavior of some shoppers is putting people in unnecessary danger.
- [The government's small business loan money is gone. Now what?](#)
 - The money is gone. On Thursday morning, the \$349 billion emergency small business lending program officially tapped out. The Small Business Administration officially ran out of money for the Paycheck Protection Program, according to a message for lenders posted on the administration's website. Negotiations on Capitol Hill have yet to generate a path forward to replenish the money, all as the US economy continues to stagger under the pressure of near-nationwide closures.
- [Bosses Stretch the Definition of Who Is 'Essential' — and Workers Take the Risk](#)
 - “The bearer of this letter,” the document says, “is providing life-sustaining and essential services.” That depends, of course, on how you define essential, a word some businesses are trying to stretch as far as they can. Copies of the “travel authorization letter” were distributed to employees of Leslie's Poolmart Inc. to display if they're pulled over for violating shelter-in-place orders when they're on the way to their shifts. They are vital workers in the coronavirus pandemic, according to Leslie's, because the chain sells chemicals that can be used as alternatives to hand sanitizers and because swimming pools that aren't properly cared for can be health hazards. Many of Leslie's more than 900 locations remain open.
- [Essential workers are dying from COVID-19.](#)
 - Eight New York City transit workers have died—so far—due to complications from COVID-19. This news reminds us of Robert Snyder's observation that “in the simplest calculation there are only two classes of people: those who might get hurt or killed on the job and those who don't.” It seems that transit workers are as much at risk in this crisis as the more prestigious health care professionals—maybe even more. Many more of these young and middle-aged workers—not 80-year-olds with underlying conditions—are breathing through ventilators today. How many family members of transit workers are dying because they are not allowed to stay home?

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- [Wynn Resorts CEO says company is paying employees to retain them despite coronavirus closures](#)
 - Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox was the first to close casino doors in Las Vegas, even before Nevada's governor ordered them shut for 30 days. Maddox told CNBC in an interview he learned a lesson from the financial crisis in 2008: It pays off in the long run to retain employees, even if it costs the company in the short run.
- [Opinion | Workers Facing the Coronavirus: 'We're Up Here Risking Our Life for Chicken'](#)
 - Millions of white-collar workers are telecommuting from home to stay safe as the coronavirus extends its terrifying reach across America. But millions of other workers — supermarket cashiers, pharmacists, warehouse workers, bus drivers, meatpacking workers — still have to report to work each day, and many are furious that their employers are not doing enough to protect them against the pandemic.
- [Delivery workers are keeping California fed. They say no one's keeping them safe](#)
 - While most of California hunkered down at home, Toby N. was still delivering meals for DoorDash in the Bay Area town of San Leandro. But days after Alameda County directed its residents to stay home, Toby began experiencing shortness of breath and a dry cough. He went to a doctor on Sunday and was told to self-quarantine for two weeks.
- [Analysis | Why many 'essential' workers get paid so little, according to experts](#)
 - The novel coronavirus pandemic has divided the American labor force into two classes: those who are essential to keeping society running, and everyone else. The essential workers harvest our food and stock our grocery shelves. They fulfill orders at warehouses and deliver goods all over the country. They drive our buses, gas our cars and keep our streets clean. They watch our children and care for us when we fall ill.
- [Sidelined by the coronavirus, business owners and newly unemployed Americans struggle to find a way forward](#)
 - Americans who never thought they would need it are seeking unemployment benefits because of coronavirus-related layoffs. They're finding an overwhelmed system that may not meet their needs in time. Meanwhile, business owners are trying to find solutions.

Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

- ['A Band-Aid on a gunshot wound': How the restaurant industry is responding to COVID-19 relief](#)
 - Across the country, restaurants and bars are [closing their doors](#) to limit the spread of COVID-19. Business owners from [New Orleans](#) to [Seattle](#) are grappling with overwhelming uncertainty and financial risks, while servers, dishwashers, cooks, and bartenders are finding themselves without a job almost overnight. And for many of them, rent was due yesterday. Food preparation and service is the [second most common](#) occupation in the United States. Waiting tables is the eighth most common. There are more than 12 million Americans working at over 600,000 food service and drinking establishments nationwide.
- [Record numbers applied for unemployment benefits in March, an unprecedented spike due to the coronavirus outbreak](#)
 - More than 6.6 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week — a record — as political and public health leaders put the economy in a deep freeze, keeping people at home and trying to slow the spread of the deadly coronavirus. The past two weeks have erased nearly all the jobs created in the past five years, a sign of how rapid, deep and painful the economic shutdown has been on many American families who are struggling to pay rent and health insurance costs in the midst of a pandemic.
- [Grocery workers are beginning to die of coronavirus](#)
 - Major supermarket chains are beginning to report their first coronavirus-related employee deaths, leading to store closures and increasing anxiety among grocery workers as the pandemic intensifies across the country. A Trader Joe's worker in Scarsdale, N.Y., a greeter at a Giant store in Largo, Md., and two Walmart employees from the same Chicago-area store have died of covid-19, the disease the novel coronavirus causes, in recent days, the companies confirmed Monday.
- [Millions of people are seeking unemployment, overwhelming states that were struggling before coronavirus](#)
 - **When the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino near Gulfport, Miss., shut down in early March, Jasmine Cooley raced to apply for unemployment aid. And that's when her headaches began. First, it took hours to get someone on the phone. Then the state processed her information incorrectly. But her worst fears came to fruition about a week later — when she learned she had been rejected. A single mom now living with her own mother, Cooley said she didn't qualify because of Mississippi's strict rules, some of which the state would relax weeks later, but not before a deadly pandemic unleashed once-unfathomable hardships on local families.**
- [HHS watchdog finds severe hospital shortages in combating covid-19](#)
 - A federal watchdog is corroborating warnings by governors and front-line health-care workers that hospitals' ability to combat the coronavirus pandemic is being impeded by shortages of tests, protective gear, staff and space, as well as inconsistent government advice. Some hospitals are so desperate for protective masks that they are scrounging them from auto-body shops and nail salons, according to a report by the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services. At least one hospital is making its own hand sanitizer by mixing gel used for ultrasounds with alcohol from a nearby distillery, the report said.

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▪ [She Cleans for Affluent Manhattanites. Will She Get Coronavirus?](#)

- Housekeepers and nannies are often undocumented immigrants. As coronavirus rages, many must weigh the risk of working against the risk of unemployment. When the coronavirus struck New York City and most businesses were ordered to close, Luz's employers on the Upper East Side of Manhattan allowed her to take a break. Two days later, they messaged her: Come back. "She asked me if I was OK, if I was sick," Luz said of her employer, a family of four with two school-aged children. The mother then told her: "If everyone in your home is OK, I need you to come help with the kids and the house."

▪ [A Quarantined Uber Driver's Quest for Paid Sick Leave](#)

- Zachary Frenette spent about two weeks fighting to get help under a new Uber policy. It worked, but only after he got the news media involved. He likes working as an Uber driver in Phoenix. He is a top-rated driver who often chats with his customers on their trips. During the outbreak of the coronavirus last month, business began to slow. Then, a possible exposure to the virus prompted Mr. Frenette, 29, to quarantine himself. Off the roads and worried about making his rent on time, he turned to Uber for help. He had heard that the ride-hailing app was [one of several companies](#) that [announced policies](#) to offer paid leave or other compensation to workers infected by the coronavirus or ordered quarantined by the government or health care providers.

▪ [Retailers Under Growing Pressure to Let Workers Wear Masks](#)

- At Office Depot, employees have been told that they cannot wear masks in the store. Some Walgreens workers say they were also discouraged from wearing them. Many other large retailers, including Target, have started to allow masks, but are leaving it up to employees to procure their own supplies. Federal health officials appear [ready to recommend](#) that Americans of all ages start wearing masks for protection against the coronavirus, but millions of retail workers have been [interacting with the public](#) for weeks without them. Sometimes, they have been told that wearing masks could scare shoppers. Now many are scrambling to find available gear.

▪ [Service sector job cuts from COVID-19 likely to hit younger workers more](#)

- [COVID-19](#) and the coronavirus that causes it are proving to be not only a public health crisis but also an [economic one](#). With calls for social distancing, service sector jobs that depend on customer-provider interactions or involve the congregation of large numbers of people are likely to take a huge hit. Workers in industries such as restaurants, hotels, child care services, retail trade and transportation services are at a higher risk of losing their jobs. Nearly one-in-four U.S. workers – 38.1 million out of 157.5 million – are employed in the industries most likely to feel an immediate impact from the COVID-19 outbreak, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of government data. Among the [most vulnerable](#) are workers in retail trade (10% of all workers) and food services and drinking places (6%). In total, these two industries employ nearly 26 million Americans.

▪ [Who are the workers already impacted by the COVID-19 recession?](#)

- Over the last few weeks, government responses to arrest the spread of the coronavirus pandemic have brought massive disruptions to Americans' economic lives. The people feeling those disruptions most viscerally include the millions of U.S. workers left jobless by shuttered [restaurants, hotels, and retail stores](#), plummeting air and rail travel, and emptied museums, casinos, and sports stadiums. In just two short weeks, [a record 10 million American workers](#) filed claims for unemployment benefits.

Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

▪ [How local leaders can stave off a small business collapse from COVID-19](#)

- The sudden halt in commerce across the United States over the past two weeks due to the coronavirus has placed millions of small businesses in peril, and tested the capacity of the private sector and governments at all levels to deliver relief as the economy freezes in place. As Annie Lowrey wrote in The Atlantic, “This is not a recession. It is an ice age.” Local policymakers—and the collaborative private and nonprofit networks that support them—do not plan for ice ages. But they are admirably stepping up in this time of crisis with novel small business stabilization solutions. This brief is designed to guide them through the economic and policy uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 small business crisis by offering insights.

▪ [Lost wages. Broken dreams. Tales from inside the restaurant trenches](#)

- Danielle Ayer, 34, runs Huron Village’s fine-dining restaurant Talulla with her husband, Conor Dennehy. Obviously, what we do isn’t sustainable for the current climate. Last Saturday night, or maybe Friday night, we tried to come up with ideas and bounce topics off each other on what we could do to have some sort of income coming in. We wanted to give back to the community, so we came up with Casseroles for a Cause: large-format, freezable, re-heatable meals, comforting food and soups for a time like this when people are staying indoors.

▪ [Gaps in Amazon's Coronavirus Response Fuel Warehouse Workers' Demands](#)

- SEATTLE — Jonathan Bailey, a 30-year-old Amazon warehouse employee in Queens, has a system for protecting himself from the coronavirus at work. He wears a medical mask with a bandanna tied over it. When he returns to the apartment he shares with his wife, he dumps his mask, work gloves, neon green Amazon safety vest and other clothes into a plastic trash bag. He’s not certain it really works, but he figures it’s better than nothing. “We’re very careful,” Mr. Bailey said. “We’re in the epicenter of it all.”

▪ [Tampa's Datz restaurant group cuts staff, turns to curbside service, to save family business](#)

- TAMPA — One day last month, the math became irrefutable. On that day, Suzanne and Roger Perry laid off 175 employees in their small empire of Tampa Bay restaurants. They couldn’t gather everyone together to explain the layoffs — it would have exceeded the governor’s rules about crowd sizes. The managers had to phone people individually to break the news.

▪ [Companies are making their own safety rules as the federal government stands aside](#)

- America's grocery stores, retail chains and warehouses staying open during the coronavirus crisis can't seem to agree on how exactly to keep their millions of workers safe at the height of a pandemic. Walmart ([WMT](#)) and Amazon ([AMZN](#)) announced last week that they plan to start taking employees' temperatures before they come into work and provide masks and gloves if workers want to wear them. Target ([TGT](#)) said it will provide workers with masks and gloves and will "strongly encourage that they be worn while working." But it's not taking workers' temperatures. Home Depot ([HD](#)) will give thermometers to workers and ask them to check their own temperatures before showing up, but it's not providing workers with masks. Lowe's ([LOW](#)), its top rival, is doing the opposite: The hardware chain will give masks to workers who want them, but it's not offering them thermometers or taking their temperatures before they come in

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- [SBA Loan Program Starts As Small Businesses Make Urgent Applications](#)
 - The frenzy began even before most banks opened. By 9 a.m. on Friday, banks had already processed 700 loans totaling \$2.5 million for small businesses as the spigot opened on a federal emergency relief program. But that was just the beginning. By early afternoon that number had ballooned to \$1.8 billion. And by evening it was \$3.2 billion in loans that will go to more than 10,000 small businesses desperate to save themselves. It was all part of a scramble by small businesses around the country to stay alive by grabbing a piece of a Treasury Department program to pump \$349 billion into the sputtering U.S. economy. Small businesses, which employ nearly half of America's private-sector workers, are hemorrhaging, and the loans are meant to help them retain employees or rehire those they let go because of the coronavirus pandemic.
- [Small Business Loans Potentially Overwhelm Banks with Demand](#)
 - Small business owners, desperate for help amid the economic meltdown wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, are eagerly awaiting the start of a \$349 billion government relief program. But just one day before the program's launch on Friday, the banks and other lenders that the government is relying on to fund loans and vet applicants were still waiting for much of the information they need to participate. They are also nervous about how they — and the government — will handle what is expected to be a huge crush of demand.
- [How Gig Workers Are Weathering the Virus Shutdown](#)
 - In New York, the epicenter of the nation's coronavirus outbreak, the lucky ones work at home. But that's often not an option for the 1.4 million New Yorkers who freelance, work project to project or find gigs through apps like Lyft and Wag. Much of their work has evaporated, and they may not be entitled to unemployment benefits or be covered by health insurance.
- [David Chang isn't sure the restaurant industry will survive Covid-19.](#)
 - Chang, 42, has become a food-world icon, broadened the country's palate and made us more thoughtful about what we eat. None of which is much help with moving forward in the wake of the economic destruction that the coronavirus has wrought in the culinary world. "I'm not being hyperbolic in any way," Chang said about the future of the field in which he made his name. "Without government intervention, there will be no service industry."

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▪ [Your Employee Tested Positive for Covid-19. What Do You Do?](#)

- All leaders are trying to find their footing right now. You are probably shoring up your business plan, situating your team, and juggling your own constellation of remote working arrangements — possibly alongside your spouse and children. On top of that, you will face a test you probably couldn't have imagined a few weeks ago: When one of your employees tells you they have tested positive for Covid-19. If you haven't dealt with that already, you almost certainly will.

▪ [Amazon's poor treatment of workers is catching up to it during the coronavirus crisis](#)

- It's been clear for weeks that Amazon faces an unprecedented challenge in coping with the fallout from COVID-19. With tens of millions of Americans now dependent on online delivery for their food, medicine, and other essential items, the nation's No. 1 e-commerce company is buckling under increased demand. And as [fulfillment center employees are diagnosed with the virus across the country](#), Amazon's already-restive workforce has escalated its efforts to win better pay and safer working conditions. Among other things, employees at affected locations have simply walked off the job.

▪ [Coronavirus Business Tracker: How The Private Sector Is Fighting The COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

- Businesses around the world are shifting into overdrive to help battle the coronavirus, providing everything from rubber gloves and ventilators to diagnostic tools and, hopefully soon, vaccines. While the pandemic continues to wreak havoc, large corporations and small businesses are developing creative solutions to halt the spread of the virus.

▪ [CARES Act: Coronavirus stimulus checks, unemployment claims, and student loan help, explained](#)

- The early numbers from the [coronavirus](#) economic crisis are grim. Millions of Americans are waiting for federal help in the form of direct payments, unemployment insurance benefits, or food assistance. Last week, [Congress officially passed a \\$2 trillion stimulus package](#), called the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, aimed at helping workers, businesses, and states deal with the economic fallout from efforts to curb the coronavirus outbreak.

▪ [Thousands businesses flood baker administration with inquiries over essential list](#)

- Nearly every boss in the state must have expected Governor Charlie Baker to extend his shutdown of nonessential businesses. But that won't make it any easier, now that it is here: Baker on Tuesday pushed the closure of nonessential workplaces out to May 4, from the earlier date of April 7 that he established last week, to slow the spread of COVID-19 cases.

▪ [Undocumented workers among those hit first — and worst — by the coronavirus shutdown](#)

- Evilin Cano was dismantling a rooftop skating rink in Manhattan's Seaport district when her construction crew was notified that the venue would be closing, along with much of New York — and that she would be out of a job. The next night, the 33-year-old undocumented day laborer from Guatemala fell ill with a fever. Her head pounded. Her throat hurt. She could not stop coughing or vomiting. And she was short of breath. She does not know whether she has covid-19 because three hospitals told her not to bother coming in for testing unless she's gasping for air.

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- [Help Wanted: Grocery Stores, Pizza Chains and Amazon Are Hiring](#)

- The volume of food and paper products passing through a warehouse just outside Los Angeles is up 30 percent from the same time a year ago. Pizza deliveries are surging as people around the country hunker down. Medical product manufacturers are racing to help hospitals around the country lacking critical equipment needed to diagnose and treat Covid-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

- [Unprotected and unprepared: Home health aides who care for sick, elderly brace for covid-19](#)

- All day, most days, for \$10 an hour, Marley Brownlee comes and goes from the homes of the old and the weak. She has almost none of the equipment that could protect her vulnerable clients — or herself — from the deadly virus that has transformed life across the United States. No masks, goggles or gown. She takes what precautions she can using gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. Her hands are raw from washing, and last week, she considered spraying herself down with Lysol between appointments.

- [‘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.

- [Grocery workers are keeping Americans alive during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here's what they need.](#)

- As worried Americans pack supermarket aisles in anticipation of quarantines and shelter-in-place orders, grocery workers like Courtney Meadows are working at a frantic pace to keep Americans fed and alive, and risking their own health in the process.

- [Instacart’s Gig Workers Are Planning a Massive, Nationwide Strike](#)

- Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the grocery delivery company has refused to offer its 175,000 gig workers basic protections like hazard pay, hand sanitizer, and paid leave for those with pre-existing health conditions.

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- [‘Plz Cancel Our Cleaning’: Virus Leads Many to Cast Aside Household Help](#)
 - PASADENA, Calif. — Late last week, Maria Zamorano, 50, picked up her cellphone to check her messages. “Hi, plz cancel our cleaning for tomorrow,” said one. “Maria, I’m going to have to cancel tomorrow’s cleaning. Thank you,” said another. The housekeeper had been receiving similar texts all week, every one of them a cancellation from homeowners on whom she depends to make a living — swabbing their toilets, vacuuming their carpets and shining their floors.
- [Four Seasons Hotel in New York Will Open Its Doors to Hospital Workers, Says Gov. Andrew Cuomo](#)
 - The Four Seasons Hotel in Manhattan is opening its rooms up for health care workers in the city. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced on Twitter Wednesday that the luxury hotel will “provide FREE lodging to doctors, nurses & medical personnel currently working to respond to the #COVID19 pandemic.”
- [Walmart, Albertsons, Kroger and Whole Foods are adding sneeze guards to checkout lanes](#)
 - The checkout aisles at a number of the United States' largest grocery chains are going to look a little different. Walmart, Kroger and Albertsons are installing plexiglass sneeze guards in the coming weeks to help protect their employees from the spread of coronavirus as they continue to work on the front lines of a public health pandemic.
- [Op-ed: Food Workers are on the Frontlines of Coronavirus. They Need Our Support.](#)
 - On Sunday, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz signed an executive order providing free childcare for all workers [deemed essential](#) for the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes the grocery store clerks and shelf stockers helping keep grocery stores functioning as shoppers fill their pantries with food for potential quarantine. Vermont is developing a [similar childcare reimbursement plan](#) that could also include grocery workers.

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- [Delivery drivers face pandemic without sick pay, insurance, sanitizer](#)
 - In a global coronavirus pandemic that has infected about 420,000 people and killed nearly 19,000, delivery drivers like Alvarado have become as essential as first responders, providing food and other basics for millions of people who are isolating themselves under government stay-home directives. But unlike traditional emergency workers, today's delivery drivers typically have little or no health insurance, sick pay or job security - and many say they lack even the basics needed to stay safe on the job.
- [National retailers to stop paying rent to offset coronavirus impact](#)
 - Major retail and restaurant chains, including Mattress Firm and Subway, are telling landlords they will withhold or slash rent in the coming months after closing stores to slow the coronavirus, according to people familiar with the situation. In a brewing fight, chains are calling for rent reductions through lease amendments and other measures starting in April, said the people, who asked not to be named because the discussions are private.
- [Opinion | They Don't Hide From the Coronavirus, They Confront It](#)
 - "I'm having flashbacks to the Boston Marathon bombing," my daughter said. She was a newly minted physician on the day the bombs went off seven years ago, when the police rolled a man on a stretcher into her hospital's emergency department. His blood had spilled onto the floor and someone began to wipe it away. "Don't bother," the officer said, "there is a lot more where that came from." When she tells that story, my daughter always mentions the dread she felt. How many more victims would arrive, and when? Now, she faces a similar sense of dread, as demand for Covid-19 care could swamp her hospital and patients who could have been saved may die as the ventilator supply runs out.
- [Essential? Retailers Like Guitar Center and Michaels Think They Are](#)
 - At some Guitar Center stores, employees are still allowing customers to try out models of guitars. Dillard's, a department store chain popular in the South, is still welcoming shoppers looking for clothing and makeup. And Michaels, the arts and crafts chain, says it is keeping many of its stores open to provide supplies to parents teaching their homebound children. "We are here for the makers," the retailer said in an email to one concerned customer.

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- [Coronavirus Panic Buying Puts Grocery Workers and Shoppers at Risk of Infection](#)

- I grew up in Miami, where swarming the grocery store before a hurricane was a near-annual ritual. We packed our carts and waited in long lines, but there was certainty, at least in that very moment, that we were safe. The storm had not yet arrived. It was still on the TV screen, a disc spinning slowly in the ocean, behind a cone of uncertainty that meant we might not get hit at all. Now, we're shopping in the middle of a hurricane we cannot see.

- [Can You Get Coronavirus from the Grocery Store?](#)

- For a couple of weeks now, grocery stores have been one of the only respites from cabin fever. Despite all the lockdowns and social-distancing measures across America, people still need food. In the most restrictive states, the grocery store has become about the last place you can go where life is lived more or less as it previously was. Except now, not even grocery stores can keep up the facade of normalcy. As many health experts have feared, last week, reports began to trickle in of grocery-store workers coming down with COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

- [Jobless claims soar past 3 million as coronavirus sends Americans to unemployment lines](#)

- Americans displaced by the coronavirus crisis filed unemployment claims in record numbers last week, with the Labor Department reporting Thursday a surge to 3.28 million. The number shatters the Great Recession peak of 665,000 in March 2009 and the all-time mark of 695,000 in October 1982. The previous week, which reflected the period before the worst of the coronavirus hit, was 282,000, which was higher than expected at the time.

- [Opinion | Will the Coronavirus Make Restaurants Like Mine Extinct?](#)

- Last week, I laid off all 30 of my employees and closed the restaurant I've run for over a decade, Dirt Candy. I've worked shoulder to shoulder with many of these people every night for years. I've lost a family. They've lost their jobs. If I knew the coronavirus lockdown would last two or three weeks I would have kept them on the payroll, but we have no idea how long this will last. A month? Two? Six? After three weeks of issuing payroll checks while earning no income, I would have an empty bank account. And if that happens, I'll never reopen.

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- [Coronavirus: Texas Roadhouse CEO gives up salary, bonus](#)

- The CEO of Texas Roadhouse is giving up nearly a year's worth of salary and bonus to help hourly restaurant workers who are seeing their income essentially disappear during the coronavirus pandemic. Company president and CEO W. Kent Taylor will forgo his base salary and incentive bonus from the pay period between March 18, 2020, and Jan. 7, 2021, according to a report filed this week with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. "The additional funds will be made available to assist front-line hourly restaurant employees," the report states.

- [A record 3.3 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits as the coronavirus slams economy](#)

- A record 3.3 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, the Labor Department said Thursday, as restaurants, hotels, barber shops, gyms and more shut down in a nationwide effort to slow the spread of the deadly coronavirus. Last week saw the biggest jump in new jobless claims in history, surpassing the record of 695,000 set in 1982. Many economists say this is the beginning of a massive spike in unemployment that could result in over 40 million Americans losing their jobs by April.

- [Can we save people like my brother from the economic impact of the coronavirus?](#)

- He's 60, does not have a college degree, and for years has lived from paycheck to paycheck. He just lost his job.

- [Amazon warehouse workers test covid-19 positive at facilities in New York, Kentucky, Florida, Texas, Michigan and Oklahoma](#)

- The spike in positive test for the disease caused by the novel coronavirus comes as the e-commerce giant races to hire 100,000 workers to meet massive shopper demand.

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.

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.

Articles about COVID-19's impact on low-wage and frontline workers

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 to paid sick leave. [Read here.](#)



Opinion

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

The editorial board is a group of opinion journalists whose views are informed by expertise, research, debate and certain longstanding values. It is separate from the newsroom.

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.”](#)

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%

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.



Other Organizations Tracking COVID-19's Impact on Frontline Workers

Updated April 18, 2020

The COVID-19 Corporate Response Tracker: How America's Largest Employers Are Treating Stakeholders Amid the Coronavirus Crisis

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JUST REPORT

The COVID-19 Corporate Response Tracker: How America's Largest Employers Are Treating Stakeholders Amid the Coronavirus Crisis

The coronavirus pandemic and impending recession have created an urgent, unprecedented opportunity for CEOs and corporate leaders to put the promise of purpose-driven leadership and stakeholder capitalism into practice. Companies face extraordinary operational and financial challenges, and with every industry and business tested in unique ways, the course of action may be different for each. Many companies have already stepped up to support their workers, customers, and local communities. We've created the following tracker — starting with America's 100 largest public employers — to help assess what's happening on the ground, elevate best practices, and share what good looks like in this rapidly shifting landscape.

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New America: Tracking the Corporate Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Which Companies Still Aren't Offering Paid Sick Days?

Tracking the Corporate Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

By: Roselyn Miller, Brigid Schulte, Haley Swenson

Last updated on April 15th, 2020

