Retail Supply Chain Update
May 7, 2020

Walmart

- **Walmart temporarily closed two more stores in MA** after workers test positive for COVID-19. The closed stores are in Avon and Abingdon.
- This is the second time the store in Abingdon has been closed due to COVID-19
- The Abingdon store could re-open as early as Sunday
- The store in Avon will open as soon as enough employees have tested negative
- Marty Golightly, Abingdon’s public health director, notes that both Avon and Abingdon border towns that have been hit hard by COVID-19
- The previously closed Walmart in Worcester, MA re-opened on Tuesday
- **A new COVID-19 testing site has opened at a Walmart in Orlando, FL**
- The Orlando site is a drive thru, self-testing site staffed by Walmart pharmacists and employees
- The site is capable of processing 150 tests per day, is operating by appointment, and is testing healthcare workers, first responders and others showing symptoms of COVID-19

Target

- **The company is sharing** its COVID-19 safety toolkit document with other businesses to use as they open up; joining Kroger, who shared their document a few weeks ago
- Full safety toolkit available [here](#)
- Target, based in Minneapolis, MN, has been providing technical support to the state of Minnesota after it jumped in to help set up an inventory management system and configure warehouses where N-95 masks and other personal protective equipment are stored before being distributed to hospitals and clinics across the state.
- Using its contacts, Target was able to find a source for infrared thermometers that it has made available at cost to Minnesota businesses. The no-touch, point-and-click thermometers are held inches away from a person’s forehead and give an immediate temperature reading.

**Associated Wholesale Grocers (AWG) and FutureProof Retail (FPR) bring contactless payment option to independent grocery stores**

- The partnership will allow FutureProof to bring its mobile self-scanning and checkout and counter-service platform to AWG retailers
- FutureProof is donating this checkout solution free of charge while the US remains under a state of emergency
- AWG members will receive preferential pricing after the state of emergency is lifted
- “FutureProof Retail’s Self-Scanning Solution helps our members compete favorably in all markets served because it allows independent supermarkets to eliminate wait times at
checkout and service counters, and it also enables social distancing in stores,” Stacy Bowen, vice president of sales and solutions at AWG, said in a statement. “It provides all required features out of the box and is easy to adapt and integrate into the existing store systems and processes.”

- Using the FutureProof platform, shoppers can scan products with their smartphone and bag them while shopping. They then can skip the checkout lines by making payment and completing the transaction on their phone. Customers, too, can use the solution to order prepared food or deli items at in-store service counters while shopping and receive a notification when their order is ready for pickup.
- Self-scanning provides a way to lower the risk of exposure for customers and store associates, since shoppers won’t need to wait in a line.
- Grocery retailers like Publix, Kroger and Walmart, among others, have highlighted contactless payment as a safer method of completing transactions amid the pandemic.

**Perdue Chicken**

- On Wednesday, employees at the Perdue chicken processing plant in Ohio County, Kentucky were being tested for COVID-19.
- Between 1,100 and 1,200 people are employed at the plant in Ohio County, KY and positive cases have been reported at the plant.
- Although the tests are being taken in Ohio County, positive results will be reported as coming from the county in which the worker lives.
- Unless the company or state officials release a tally, it may be difficult to know for sure how many employees test positive here for COVID-19.

**Tyson Foods remains positive despite challenges from COVID-19**

- The company reported net income of $364 million for the second quarter of 2020, down from $426 million in the second quarter of 2019. Adjusted earnings per share were $2.43, down 13% from the prior year. Net income for the first six months was $921 million, down from $977 million in 2019.
- Despite the lower earnings, the company remains positive and says it is well positioned financially.
- The company expects current conditions to continue in its third quarter but is hopeful to begin a gradual recovery in the 4th quarter if businesses and schools are allowed to re-open.
- Tyson’s retail business posted gains of more than 20% during the last 13 weeks.
- Although panic buying has subsided from extreme levels, the company continues to see 15-40% volume increases versus last year, depending on the category.
- While Tyson has been successful in shifting some of its production from foodservice to retail, not all of its facilities are able to do so and the volume increase in retail was not enough to offset the loses in from the food service side.