Retail Supply Chain Update
July 28, 2020

Target announces stores will be closed on Thanksgiving Day this year

- The retailer announced Monday its stores will be closed on the holiday due to the coronavirus pandemic. The move comes less than a week after Walmart said its stores would be shuttered on November 26 to show appreciation for its employees.
- "There's no question, the holiday season is going to be very different this year," Target said in an article on its corporate website that detail its holiday plans amid the pandemic. "Just as you've trusted Target for safe, convenient shopping throughout the pandemic, you can count on us to deliver that and so much more every week throughout the holiday season and beyond."
- Target added that holiday deals will be available "earlier than ever" this year in the post. The deals will begin in October and continue through the season to help cut down on large crowds typical of holiday shopping, the company said. The discounts will be available both online and in stores.
- In addition, the retail giant said it will make 20,000 additional products available through its same-day pickup and delivery services by the fall.

FDA expands list of potentially deadly hand sanitizers

- The US Food and Drug Administration has expanded its list of potentially deadly hand sanitizer products, warning a Mexican-based company about selling products that contain methanol, a dangerous form of alcohol that can poison people through their skin.
- Many new companies have been selling hand sanitizer products because of the increased demand fueled by coronavirus fears, and shortages of the usual mainstream products. But the FDA said on Monday that many companies are using unsafe alcohols in their products, and is warning people to not use them.
- "Manufacturers' failure to immediately recall all potentially affected products is placing consumers in danger of methanol poisoning," the FDA said in a statement.
- The full list of hand sanitizers the FDA is warning about is located here and includes over 80 products.

Albertsons sees sales rise over 20% in Q1 2020

- Albertsons Cos. continued its streak of strong sales with its first-quarter 2020 earnings report showing sales up by 21.4% to $22.8 billion during the 16 weeks ended June 20, 2020.
- The increase was driven by the Boise, Idaho-based supermarket retailer’s 26.5% increase in identical sales, partially offset by a reduction in sales related to store closures and lower fuel sales. Identical sales benefited from a whopping 276% growth in digital sales and an increase in store sales, both largely driven by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Albertsons reported that its delivery options now reach 90% of its stores, and accelerated expansion of curbside pickup (Drive Up and Go) is on track to reach 1,600 stores.