



Retail Supply Chain Update

December 4, 2020

Walmart sweetens the pot for online shoppers

- With the COVID-19 pandemic already stoking online order volume, Walmart aims to ramp up e-commerce sales even more this holiday season by removing the \$35 shipping minimum for members of its two-and-a-half-month-old Walmart+ customer benefits program.
- Walmart said Wednesday that, starting on Dec. 4, Walmart+ members will receive free next-day and two-day shipping on items shipped by Walmart regardless of the dollar ring for their Walmart.com order. The Bentonville, Ark.-based retailer noted that online orders carry the same everyday low pricing as in stores, and delivery from Walmart stores on items like groceries will still require a \$35 minimum order.

Walmart to pay \$388 million in special cash bonuses to frontline workers

- Walmart is serving up more than \$700 million in special and quarterly cash bonuses to its U.S.-based associates, with over half of the total being paid in recognition of workers' extra efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Bentonville, Ark.-based Walmart said Thursday that it will pay \$388 million in special cash bonuses on Dec. 24 to about 1.5 million full- and part-time Walmart U.S. and Sam's Club hourly associates in stores, clubs, distribution centers and fulfillment centers for their "sustained commitment to customers during the pandemic." Part-time and temporary hourly workers will get \$150, while full-time hourly associates will receive \$300.

Albertsons rolls out contactless temperature, health check solution

- Adding to its coronavirus safety measures, Albertsons Cos. has deployed a contactless temperature check and health screening solution for associates and vendors.
- Boise, Idaho-based Albertsons said yesterday that the new technology, from Turing Video Inc., is being rolled out across the company's supermarket banners and facilities and will provide a more reliable health-screening process.
- The Turing Video solution encompasses a built-in, touchless body temperature scanner and a digital COVID-19 health questionnaire. Upon successful completion of the temperature screening and validation of the health questionnaire, associates receive stickers printed with the word "CLEAR" and their photo.
- Albertsons said the sticker can be worn by screened workers who aren't in food production areas. Those in food production positions who have been screened will have their stickers logged in the department.

UFCW, ShopRite reach deal on COVID-19 hazard pay

- United Food and Commercial Workers International (UFCW) said Wakefern Food Corp.'s ShopRite supermarket chain has agreed on retroactive hazard pay for grocery workers efforts in late summer during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Under the agreement, nearly 50,000 ShopRite grocery employees represented by UFCW and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) will receive retroactive premium pay of \$1 per hour for all hours worked from July 26 to Aug. 22, UFCW said Wednesday. The funds will be disbursed to workers in lump-sum payments.

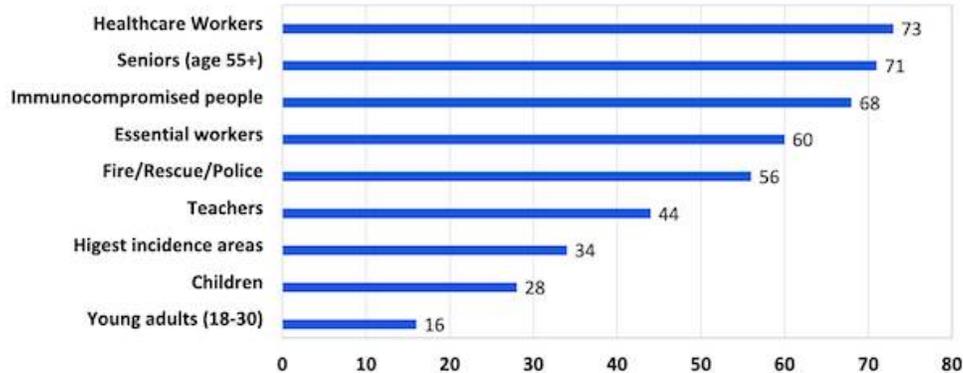
Supermarket pharmacists among priority COVID-19 vaccine recipients

- Supermarket pharmacy staff will be among the nation's first group of recipients of COVID-19 vaccines, with food industry workers following in the next phase, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) panel.
- "The importance of the COVID-19 vaccine and a convenient, efficient and safe delivery of the vaccine cannot be overstated. Supermarket pharmacies stand ready to play a significant role in administering COVID-19 vaccines to the public when they are available. In the interim, supermarkets are working diligently to provide food, cleaning products and the full range of pharmacy services — including flu and other vaccinations — to support Americans' health and well-being," Leslie Sarasin, president and CEO of FMI-The Food Industry Association, said late Tuesday in a statement on the ACIP's recommendation.
- Sarasin noted the supermarket industry's large retail health care footprint, including 12,000 FMI member-operated pharmacies that already provide immunization services and health care counseling to customers.
- "According to FMI research, supermarket pharmacies currently provide 20% of the nation's flu vaccines. Furthermore, with the appropriate resources, supermarket pharmacists will dramatically expand access to COVID-19 vaccinations and rapidly advance our nation's immunization program, similar to the role many FMI members played with the H1N1 vaccination effort," she explained. "Importantly, supermarket pharmacies already reach underserved and vulnerable communities, sometimes as the only local provider of care. Thus, leveraging pharmacy-based immunizations is imperative to reaching a greater number of Americans in neighborhoods nationwide, including communities disproportionately impacted by the virus."
- Essential workers, including grocery and food industry employees, are earmarked for COVID-19 immunization in Phase 1b of the vaccine allocation, the ACIP reported. That group includes food and agriculture, education, utility, police, fire fighters, corrections officers and transportation workers, among others, according to the committee. Coming next in Phase 1c will be adults with high-risk medical conditions and those ages 65 and older.



Survey respondents supported early allocation of COVID-19 vaccine to health care personnel and seniors

Which of the following groups should receive priority when a COVID-19 vaccine is available?
The Harris Poll, n=1399 U.S. Adults, August 14-16, 2020



Source: <https://theharrispoll.com/americans-want-high-risk-people-to-get-a-coronavirus-vaccine-first/>

Smithfield Foods offers to store COVID-19 vaccines in ultra-cold freezers

- Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork processor, has offered to help US health officials distribute COVID-19 vaccines and store them in ultra-cold freezers.
- Reuters reports that ultra-cold freezing facilities are in high demand as the US rolls out its public vaccination campaign.
- US states, cities and hospitals are scrambling to buy freezers that can safely store Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine at temperatures of minus 70 Celsius (minus 94 Fahrenheit), significantly below the standard for vaccines.
- Moderna's vaccine can be stored at minus 20 Celsius.
- Smithfield, owned by China's WH Group, has multiple "ultra-cold" freezers and will work with local authorities to provide assistance as needed, said Chief Administrative Officer Keira Lombardo, without providing details.