Retail Supply Chain Update
January 22, 2021

Exclusive: Walmart expands vaccinations in boost to U.S. COVID-19 program

- Walmart Inc is preparing to offer COVID-19 vaccinations in seven more states, as well as in Chicago and Puerto Rico, this week and next, a company spokeswoman told Reuters, expanding beyond the two states where its pharmacists are offering inoculations.
- The move from the world’s largest retailer comes as U.S. President Joe Biden races to accelerate a frustratingly slow vaccination campaign that has stranded about half of 38 million shots in freezers.
- This week and next, Walmart will start providing inoculations in Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, South Carolina and Texas as well as in Chicago and Puerto Rico, the spokeswoman said. The shots will only be available to specific populations decided by each state and only at a handful of stores in each state.
- Walmart is already vaccinating healthcare workers in New Mexico and its home state of Arkansas.
- Alabama’s health officer, Scott Harris, on Thursday said the state would partner with Walmart to provide COVID-19 vaccinations. Walmart confirmed that deal, which falls under a federal partnership that Biden on Thursday said would launch in early February.

Amazon will open pop-up Covid vaccine clinic in Seattle

- Amazon is opening a pop-up Covid-19 vaccine clinic at its downtown Seattle headquarters, the company announced Thursday.
- The one-day clinic, which opens on Sunday, has a goal of administering 2,000 vaccines to eligible members of the public.

UFCW, FMI applaud key elements of Biden’s coronavirus relief plan

- President-elect Joe Biden’s $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan COVID-19 relief proposal drew plaudits from the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and FMI-The Food Industry Association.
- UFCW hailed the legislative package’s call for more coronavirus safety measures for essential frontline workers, including COVID-19 vaccines, as well as enhanced pandemic-related compensation and benefits, namely hazard pay for frontline grocery and retail workers.
- Meanwhile, FMI credited the Biden plan’s focus on boosting the rate of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, an area where the grocery industry trade group said supermarkets can play a pivotal role. Fellow food retail trade organization the National Grocers Association, however, said the overall bill faces significant hurdles in Congress.
Supermarket chain Aldi to pay U.S. workers who get COVID-19 vaccination

- German supermarket chain Aldi on Tuesday became the latest firm in the grocery sector to offer incentives for U.S. employees getting a COVID-19 vaccine, saying it would give up to four hours of pay to those who choose to receive inoculations.
- The retailer, which has more than 2,000 stores in 37 U.S. states, said it would cover costs associated with vaccine administration and implement on-site vaccination clinics at its warehouse and office locations.

Lidl offers extra pay to U.S. workers receiving COVID-19 vaccine

- Lidl is giving all of its U.S. employees who get a COVID-19 vaccination $200 in extra pay.
- Arlington, Va.-based Lidl US said Wednesday that the additional payment will help offset employee costs related to receiving a coronavirus vaccine, including travel expenses and child care. Workers’ schedules also will have flexibility to accommodate appointments for the vaccine, the company added.
- Company survey finds 80% of employees aim to get immunized as soon as vaccinations become available.

Publix extends COVID-19 vaccination rollout to South Carolina

- Publix Super Markets has expanded distribution of coronavirus shots to 42 pharmacies in South Carolina, the third state where the grocer is providing the vaccine.
- Publix today began allowing eligible South Carolina customers to schedule a vaccination via its online reservation system with immunizations starting Wednesday, Jan. 20. The shots are given by appointment only.
- In line with the state of South Carolina’s guidelines, COVID-19 vaccines currently will be administered only to health care workers, people ages 70 and older, residents and staff of long-term care facilities, South Carolina state/local government employees, and contractors who are critical to the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations and testing.

Hy-Vee set to launch rapid antibody COVID testing

- Expanding its coronavirus diagnostic services, Hy-Vee next week plans to start offering COVID-19 rapid antibody testing at more than 250 pharmacy locations.
- The Midwestern grocer said Thursday that the rapid antibody tests will become available across its eight-state market area on Jan. 18. Patients will get results on the same day of the test, in as soon as 15 minutes.
- Indicated for those not currently experiencing coronavirus symptoms, rapid antibody testing indicates if a person has been infected with COVID-19 in the past and has developed antibodies to the virus.
- The rapid antibody test, administered by a fingerstick, doesn’t show if a person has a current COVID-19 infection, since it can take one to three weeks after infection for the production of antibodies, Hy-Vee noted.
- Coronavirus antibody testing is available by appointment only. To get a test, patients must register online at hy-vee.com/covidtesting and choose “antibody test” to schedule a test time and location and receive a test voucher. The tests are administered inside a Hy-Vee Pharmacy by one of its trained pharmacy staffers. After testing is completed, results will be emailed to the patient that same day.
• The test costs $25, and Hy-Vee said it will accept any form of payment, including health savings accounts (HSA) and flexible spending accounts (FSA). Patients pay for their test when they arrive at the designated pharmacy.
• Rapid antibody testing dates and times vary by location, with some pharmacies beginning on Jan. 25 or Feb. 1. Hy-Vee said the tests will be offered at 17 pharmacies in Illinois, 125 in Iowa, 11 in Kansas, 33 in Minnesota, 26 in Missouri, 25 in Nebraska, 11 in South Dakota and three in Wisconsin.

**JBS Offers $100 to Employees Who Get COVID-19 Vaccine**

• Meatpacker JBS USA and chicken company Pilgrim's Pride Corp said on Thursday they will pay $100 to U.S. employees who voluntarily receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
• The bonus is intended to encourage employees to get inoculations, after thousands of U.S. meatpacking workers became infected with the coronavirus last year. Outbreaks of the disease temporarily shut slaughterhouses in the spring, pushing up meat prices and tightening supplies for consumers.

**Instacart cutting 1,900 jobs as company ramps up scale, adds new service model**

• Instacart will cut 1,900 jobs -- including 10 workers who recently formed a union -- as the company begins to increase the scale and accessibility of its pickup services in 2021.
• Instacart will begin offering its retail partners a new Partner Pick model, which will allow stores to rely on their own employees to utilize Instacart's technology and fulfill orders for customers.
• "As a result of some grocers transitioning to a Partner Pick model, we'll be winding down our in-store operations at select retailer locations over the coming months," an Instacart spokesperson told FOX Business in a statement Thursday. "We know this is an incredibly challenging time for many as we move through the COVID-19 crisis, and we're doing everything we can to support in-store shoppers through this transition."
• The company noted that it will transfer impacted shoppers to other retailers with available roles, work with retail partners to hire impacted shoppers, and provide shoppers with transition assistance as they explore new work opportunities and separation packages based on their tenure at Instacart.