Retail Supply Chain Update
February 12, 2021

**Walmart to begin COVID-19 vaccinations in 22 states**

- Walmart plans to start administering COVID-19 vaccinations via the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, announced last week by the Biden administration, on Friday.
- Meanwhile, Southeastern grocer Publix Super Markets has boosted its coronavirus vaccine availability to nearly 600 pharmacies in Florida, and Midwestern grocer Hy-Vee plans a COVID vaccination clinic for this weekend.
- Walmart said yesterday that more than 1,000 Walmart and Sam’s Club pharmacies in 22 states are receiving federal COVID-19 vaccine allocations this week and will begin providing the shots on Feb. 12, focusing on underserved communities with limited access to health care. The Bentonville, Ark.-based retailer added that it’s now administering vaccinations under the state and local allocations in 11 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

**Walmart promises to honor vaccine appointments after its website mistakenly allows some to register in Florida**

- A mistake on Walmart's website allowed adults under the age of 65 with comorbidities to register for vaccination appointments in Florida.
- The error contravened Gov. Ron DeSantis' "Seniors First" vaccination plan, but Walmart says it will honor appointments made during the window when the expanded access was available.
- Earlier this week, Florida said that vaccines would be available in 119 Walmart and Sam's Club locations throughout the state. And on Walmart's scheduling website, Florida residents deemed to be extremely vulnerable to Covid-19 by hospital providers were able to register.
- A Walmart spokesperson told CNN its scheduling program defaulted to the criteria on the DOH website.
- But despite the mix-up, Walmart says it will honor the appointments.

**UFCW calls for expedited vaccine access, hazard pay for frontline food workers**

- The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), which represents 1.3 million frontline essential workers, called on leading grocery retailer and local and federal government to expedite vaccine access for frontline food workers, while applauding the new wave of local hazard pay measures in at least 15 cities in the United States.
- According to UFCW data there have now been among the union’s members across the country, nearly 400 frontline worker deaths and 77,600 frontline workers infected or exposed, including 137 grocery worker deaths and over 30,100 grocery workers infected
or exposed and 132 meatpacking worker deaths and 21,900 meatpacking workers infected or exposed.

**Target offers COVID-19 vaccine incentives to hourly workers**

- Target Corp. is incentivizing employees to get COVID-19 vaccinations by offering extra pay and a ride.
- Minneapolis-based Target said Wednesday that hourly frontline employees receiving coronavirus shots will get up to four hours of pay, reflecting two hours for each dose. In addition, all U.S.-based employees can get free Lyft rides to and from their vaccine appointments, covering up to $15 each way.

**Kroger offers workers $100 payment to get COVID-19 vaccination**

- The Kroger Co. plans to issue one-time payment of $100 to all associates who receive full doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Kroger said late Friday that it’s also providing a $100 store credit and 1,000 fuel points to hourly frontline grocery, supply chain, manufacturing, pharmacy and call center workers across its 35-state market area under an additional $50 million investment. The two rewards are slated to be loaded onto associates’ loyalty cards on Feb. 11.
- The one-time $100 vaccine payment will be offered to associates who get the full manufacturer-recommended coronavirus vaccination — the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require two inoculations — and present proof of vaccination to their human resources representative, according to Kroger. Associates unable to receive the vaccine because of medical or religious reasons will be able to complete an educational health and safety course to get the payment.

**Giant Food completes successful COVID vaccine pilot program in Maryland**

- Giant Food of Landover, Md., announced Tuesday the successful distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible Marylanders alongside Gov. Larry Hogan and the Maryland Department of Health as part of the pilot program launch.
- The vaccine administrations, which began Jan. 25 for residents in phase 1A/B/C, resulted in zero waste as all doses distributed to Giant’s 22 Maryland stores were administered within a one-week period. The pilot program announced by the state last month began with 35 retail pharmacies throughout the state at Giant, Walmart and Martin’s locations.

**Stop & Shop tests in-store pickup lockers**

- Stop & Shop is piloting a grocery pickup locker inside a supermarket in Boston and could roll out the concept to more stores.
- Quincy, Mass.-based Stop & Shop said Thursday that the new walk-up Locker Pickup unit — in the main entrance of its store at 1620 Tremont St. in Brigham Circle, a transit stop in Boston’s Mission Hill neighborhood — enables customers to skip the line by ordering online and picking up their groceries from a secure, temperature-controlled locker at a designated time.
Stop & Shop associates pick the products ordered and load them into the lockers, separating items by storage temperature to ensure food safety. The lockers are available in refrigerated, frozen and ambient (room) temperature settings, which are remotely monitored 24/7. Lockers are cleaned and sanitized between each use, Stop & Shop noted.

Customers pay a $2.95 fee for each Locker Pickup order. Alcohol, age-restricted and certain oversize items aren’t available for order through the service.

Clorox plans to double wipe production by year's end as it struggles to fill retail inventories

- Clorox is adding capacity for a new line of wipes at a manufacturing facility in the Atlanta area, executives said. And it plans to double its wipe production capacity by the end of the year, compared to what it was producing at the beginning of the pandemic, Jacobsen said.
- "The recent investment we made to create a dedicated international supply chain for Clorox disinfecting wipes is starting to pay off, giving us the ability to not only meet ongoing elevated demand in existing markets, but also to expand to new countries," Vice President of Investor Relations Lisah Burhan said.
- This meant increasing the number of suppliers and manufacturing capacity. For wipes, Clorox brought on 10 new suppliers in the company's Q4, expanded its Atlanta operation, added contract manufacturers and built dedicated supply chains for its international sales.
- "Typically, customers keep about four weeks of inventory," then-CEO Benno Dorer said on an earnings call last May. "So, at some point, hopefully, we'll be able to also refill inventories, which will also give us an opportunity to keep selling a lot of wipes sometime in the future."

Perdue Farms starts vaccinating workers in Virginia

- On Feb. 8, Perdue Farms workers at its Accomac, Va., facility who were eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine began receiving inoculations.
- The poultry producer said the vaccines were distributed in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health. The voluntary vaccines were available free-of-charge to eligible workers and their families at the on-site wellness center.

Aldi opening new stores and expanding curbside pickup with Instacart to 500 more locations in 2021

- Supermarket chain Aldi is doubling down on curbside pickup.
- The discount grocer is expanding its curbside pickup to approximately 500 more stores by the end of 2021 after adding the service to about 600 stores in 35 states last summer.
- Aldi also is opening about 100 new stores this year.
Shipt Offers Vaccine Stipends for Its Shoppers

- Shipt joins the growing number of companies motivating its employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by launching a Vaccine Payment Program that provides $50 in stipends to its workers — known as “shoppers.”
- Active Shipt shoppers (those who have delivered 10 or more orders during the 30 days prior to vaccination) are eligible to receive a $25 stipend for each dose of the vaccine they receive, up to $50. This stipend is available, with proof of vaccination, to shoppers through at least June 1.