

Ensuring Food Is Available During Coronavirus Crisis

Having enough food during the Coronavirus crisis is the concern of many Americans. The federal government and the national chain stores that sell groceries are focused on having food available.

H.R. 6201, FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT: In the March 14 bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, passed by the U.S. Senate and signed into law by President Trump on March 18 there is funding for the Food and Nutrition Service to ensure the domestic nutrition assistance programs have adequate resources to help Americans impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

-- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – \$400 million to assist local food banks to meet increased demand for low-income Americans during the emergency. Of the total, \$300 million is for the purchase of nutritious foods and \$100 million is to support the storage and distribution of the foods.

-- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) – \$500 million to provide access to nutritious foods to low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children who lose their jobs or are laid off due to the COVID-19 emergency.

All of the following stores have implemented programs to clean, sanitize and restock shelves with available products. Please note special shopping hours for seniors (in bold letters) in some major stores. [Read more.](#)

Walmart's Actions: Walmart stores and Neighborhood Markets are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. until further notice. Stores that open later than 7:00 a.m. will continue their regular starting hours. From March 24 through April 28, Walmart's **U.S. stores will host an hour-long senior shopping event every Tuesday for customers 60 and older, which will start one hour before stores open.** The stores will have placed limits on the purchase of paper products, milk, eggs, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, water, diapers, wipes, formula and baby food. Click here for more information.

<https://corporate.walmart.com/newsroom/2020/03/18/latest-walmart-store-changes-to-support-associates-and-customers>

Sam's Club Actions: Sam's Club open hours are 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday - Saturday. Sunday hours will remain 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 pm. Prescheduled Sam's Club pickup orders will still be available for pickup starting at 7:00 a.m. Stores may periodically limit the quantity on certain items per member to ensure more people have access to the products they need. When there are long lines at the checkout customers are encourage you to use the Scan & Go feature in the Sam's Club app. Scan your items with your phone, add them to your cart, and skip the checkout line altogether. Click here for more information.

<https://corporate.samsclub.com/business/club-hours-update>

Costco's Actions: A message on Costco's website by the President and CEO did not mention any change in store hours during the Coronavirus crisis. He did note that stores are takings steps to control the number of members in Costco warehouses and asked that members and employees practice social distancing. Limits have been implemented on certain items to help ensure more members are able to access the merchandise they want and need. Click here to read the entire statement by the President and CEO.

<https://www.costco.com/coronavirus.html>

Target's Actions: Target stores are continuing regularly scheduled times and close no later than 9:00 p.m. Target is working to fulfill online orders and staffing up services like Order Pickup and Drive Up. However, due to high demand, delays are being encountered. **The first hour of shopping each Wednesday at stores nationwide are for vulnerable guests**, including elderly and those with underlying health concerns. Click here for more information. <https://corporate.target.com/article/2020/03/target-coronavirus-supporting-quests-team>

Dollar General's Actions: Dollar General stores will close an hour earlier than their normal hours for the time being to allow employees to clean stores and restock shelves. **There are senior store hours during the first hour that stores are open.** In an effort to ensure all customers have the products they need, Dollar General is suggesting a limit on paper products, hand sanitizer and wipes to three per customer. Click here for more information. <https://newscenter.dollargeneral.com/news/the-dollar-general-family-is-working-hard-to-serve-yours.htm>

Dollar Tree's and Family Dollar's Actions: The CEO's statement on the company's response to the Coronavirus did not state a change in store hours or special shopping hours for seniors. He stated that in response to unprecedented demand of many of cleaners, paper products and over-the-counter healthcare items, work is being done directly with suppliers to restock stores as soon as possible. He predicted seeing increasing stock levels over the next few weeks. Click here for Dollar General information. <https://www.dollartree.com/coronavirus-response>. Click here for Family Dollar information. <https://www.familydollar.com/coronavirus-response>