



Colorado Retail Council
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Colorado Retail Council and Colorado Counties, Inc.

Collaborative Conference Call Meeting Concerning COVID-19 Emergency Measures
1:30-2:30 PM, March 20, 2020

AGENDA

I. Introductions

II. Working together for public health in a time of crisis -

Topics for discussion relating to retail operations in Colorado counties:

- definition of essential service retailers - see attachment
- product supply chain challenges and suggestions
- store hours of operation
- mandatory store closing orders, possible curfews
- store staffing challenges
- countywide transportation restrictions
- store cleaning requirements
- retail pharmacies providing medications to those in need
- county sheriff policing priorities and public announcements
- communicating future emergency health department orders to retail stores

III. Next Steps

- more phone calls?
- subcommittee work?
- social media support: #ThankYouRetailWorkers #ThankATrucker
- more resources for support
 - https://www.rila.org/coronavirus-resources-for-retailers?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=informz%20email&_zs=1v6dd1&_zl=e5ec6

Collaborative Conference Call Concerning COVID-19 Emergency Measures

Meeting Minutes

1:30-2:30 PM, March 20, 2020

Attendees: Gini Pingnot, Colorado Counties, Inc.; Chris Howes, Colorado Retail Council; Ben Pearlman, Lowe's; John Dillon, Home Depot; Jason Bassett, Kum & Go; Mary Kay Hogan on behalf of King Soopers/City Market; Ryan Irsik, Walmart; Donovan Pepper & Heidi Ann Ecker, Walgreens; Karin Holt, Best Buy; Kent Wilson & Phil Hayes, Target; Angie Howes, CRC Lobbyist; and large number of Colorado County Commissioners.

On Friday, March 20 a conference call was held with members of the **Colorado Retail Council** and **Colorado Counties, Inc.** to discuss emergency measures being taken across Colorado to address the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

Ms. Pingnot began the meeting by taking a roll call of county commissioners and retail representatives. Mr. Howes thanked the commissioners for their time, attention, and all they do in their communities to keep their constituents safe. He said the Colorado Retail Council consists of the largest retailers in Colorado, including the largest grocers. He said he realized that not all problems would be solved in a one hour conference call, but hoped that this would be the beginning of productive conversations that would assist the community in coping with this crisis.

Mr. Howes described to CCI members how most of his week was spent working with his CRC members and state, municipal, and county government officials on the definition of 'essential service retailers.' (see below) Such definitions will be critical if a very large portion of the Colorado population will be working from home for weeks on end while requiring food, beverages, cleaning products, office supplies, home repair products, etc. Ms. Holt of Best Buy, Mr. Dillon of Home Depot, Mr. Pearlman of Lowe's, and Mr. Irsik of Walmart all thanked the commissioners on the call and then described their companies respective response to the pandemic and why definitions of 'essential service retailers' will be so important in the coming weeks and citizens practice 'social distancing.' On behalf of King Soopers/City Market, Ms. Hogan offered that close communication with government officials will be critical to keep the stores operating effectively and that her company was trying its best to parse through the various orders by health departments across the state. Mr. Bassett of Kum & Go spoke to the importance of keeping convenience stores open so that truck fleets could continue to access fuel stations and the products offered to keep truckers going through this crisis, and as an additional resource for essential groceries.

Mr. Howes then ran down the list of agenda items and spoke about how each topic would be critical for retailers over the coming weeks as they worked to remain open through the coming months to provide critical services to Colorado citizens.

Mr. Irsik of Walmart shared with the commissioners that other states & cities have discussed requiring employers to check the temperature of every employee before they come to work. Not only is that unfeasible at this time because of limits on the number of thermometers in the USA, but it probably runs afoul of HIPPA requirements.

Logan County Commissioner Byron Pelton shared with the group that he had discussions in his county about the strength of Colorado's supply chain and the access to medications. Montrose Commissioner Sue Hansen asked the assembled group of retailers if they were experiencing supply chain challenges on the Western slope. Happily, the general response was, - 'No.'

Mr. Howes referenced the new programs that are being rolled out by CRC members nationwide which include: robust sick leave programs, bonuses for associates, and charitable giving in the hundreds of millions. He said that most members of the public were now aware of certain product sales limitations which should severely cut down on the problem of hoarding/panic shopping. Mr. Howes shared with CCI members that if panic shopping & hoarding continues at the grocery stores the CRC will be working on a public service announcement campaign to inform the public that such behavior is not necessary as the supply lines for food and supplies are quite strong. He will be looking for partners on the campaign, including the governor, mayors, and county commissioners. Summit County Commissioner Thomas Davidson endorsed this idea and asked the CRC to provide infographics and more information that could be shared with CCI and the public. Mr. Howes promised to follow up on the matter.

Mr. Davidson then offered that some actions should be taken to address shoppers who are lingering a little too long in stores when they could and should be leaving promptly after their purchases. Mr. Irsik of Walmart said his stores are often practicing “aggressive hospitality” to assist shoppers in leaving as soon as possible.

Ouray County Commissioner Ben Tisdell urged an effort to get any available SNAP cards to constituents as soon as possible. Ms. Pingenot promised to assist in making sure this happens. The Colorado Department of Human Services will be moving to emergency measures that will allow for automatic extensions for benefits such as SNAP.

Logan County Commissioner Jane Bauder asked if retailers could provide more information about store opening/closing times and special store hours for senior citizens in her county. Mr. Howes promised to send along any and all information about grocer store hours. (see attached.)

San Miguel County Commissioner Hillary Cooper referenced the ‘Stay at Home’ order already in place in her county and asked if Ace Hardware was a member of the CRC. (Unfortunately, they are not.)

Mr. Pepper of Walgreens explained some of the changes on store hours that Walgreens has moved to (9:00 AM-9:00 PM nationwide) and spoke about some of the discounts and options for seniors regarding prescription purchases. Pitkin County Commissioner Greg Poschman voiced his concern about resources for seniors as the country moves more and more to extreme ‘social distancing’ measures. Mr. Howes promised to share with CCI more information for seniors concerning hours and discount purchases.

Douglas County Commissioner Lora Thomas asked about what was being done for Colorado’s retail workforce in terms of support and compensation. Mr. Irsik of Walmart shared with her what actions his company was taking; specifically, \$300 for each full-time associate, and \$150 for each part-time associate. Mr. Dillon of Home Depot and Mr. Wilson of Target each offered the bonus programs and paid leave policies that their respective companies were rolling out in response to this crisis.

As the meeting came to a close at 2:30 PM, Mr. Howes offered to coordinate any future conference calls and wondered if the creation of a subcommittee would make sense. He urged Colorado retailers to monitor the [CCI website](#) for important updates on emergency measure and orders from county health departments.

The meeting was adjourned promptly at 2:29 PM.