



# HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

FOOD UPDATE MARCH 30, 2020



# MAIN POINTS


- ▶ Food supply chain in a strong position to provide people with nourishment.
- ▶ Food supply chain companies are hurting due to a loss in volume caused by a downturn in tourism, retail and dine-in restaurant business.
- ▶ The lack of tourism accounts for 240,000 less consumers per day.
- ▶ This downfall is resulting in layoffs and extreme financial hardship for many members in the supply chain.
- ▶ What would help?
  - ▶ Prioritize food workers for real time COVID 19 testing.
  - ▶ Have the emergency proclamation expanded to provide child care services to essential workers, as Minnesota and other states have accomplished.
  - ▶ Financial assistance.
  - ▶ Purchasing of surplus foodservice items for the hungry (underway with funding from private entities but state funding may be necessary depending on how long the economy is shut down).
- ▶ Short and Long term concerns about high unemployment resulting in hunger.
- ▶ Concerns about local farmers and food businesses weathering the crisis.



# Concerns



- ▶ Inability to staff food industry jobs due to lack of available testing and lack of child care options. It would provide the public with a sense of safety to be able to conclusively test all food industry employees to confirm if they are or are not positive. Since food industry workers are essential workers designated by the federal and state government we should receive priority (behind healthcare providers) to test our employees.
- ▶ Businesses going under as a result of lack of demand for products due to loss of tourism, non-essential retail closure and dine-in restaurant related revenues.
- ▶ Concerns about consumers bringing un-sanitized bags into grocery stores. Many states have banned reusable bags as a part of their emergency proclamation due to the fact that we know the virus can be spread on surfaces.
- ▶ Grocery stores and their suppliers are concerned about adequate staffing needed to stock shelves and check out consumers without help from the government to provide tests and child care to essential workers.



# Care for Children of Families of Emergency workers

We recommend the governor include something similar to Minnesota's executive order for free school age care for children of essential workers.

[https://mn.gov/mmb/assets/03.25.20%20-%20Care%20for%20Children%20of%20Critical%20Workers%20List\\_tcm1059-424904.pdf](https://mn.gov/mmb/assets/03.25.20%20-%20Care%20for%20Children%20of%20Critical%20Workers%20List_tcm1059-424904.pdf)



## Care for Children of Families Working in Critical Sectors

Under the Governor's Executive Order 20-20 (Directing Minnesotans to Stay Home), workers providing critical services are exempt and able "to travel to and from an individual's place of work and an individual's performance of work duties, including transportation to and from child care or school settings as necessary to ensure the safe care of children".

In addition, under the Governor's Executive Order 20-19 (Distance Learning Period), school districts are "to provide care, at a minimum, to district enrolled students age 12 and under who are eligible children".

The care for children of these workers is intended for extreme circumstances in which no parent or guardian is available to care for a child due to employment as a critical worker.

In order to ensure that we are providing for the needs of our children, this guidance serves as a clarification for which critical sector workers are eligible for care.

Additionally, this guidance can be used by child care providers who are willing to prioritize the needs of these workers during this unprecedented emergency.

Please note that many, though not all, critical sector areas in the Governor's Executive Order 20-20 refer directly to the federal [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure and Security Agency \(CISA\) guidelines](#). For questions regarding definitions of the critical worker areas, please review these guidelines, Executive Order 20-20, and <http://mn.gov/deed/critical>.

## School Districts and Charter Schools

School districts and charters are required to provide care for children of workers in the following **Tier 1** areas.

### Tier 1

- Healthcare and public health
- Law enforcement, public safety and first responders
- Food and agriculture
- Judicial Branch (essential services)
- National Guard
- Educators and school staff providing care for critical workers in Tier 1 or Tier 2
- Childcare providers caring for children of any critical worker in the Governor's Executive Order



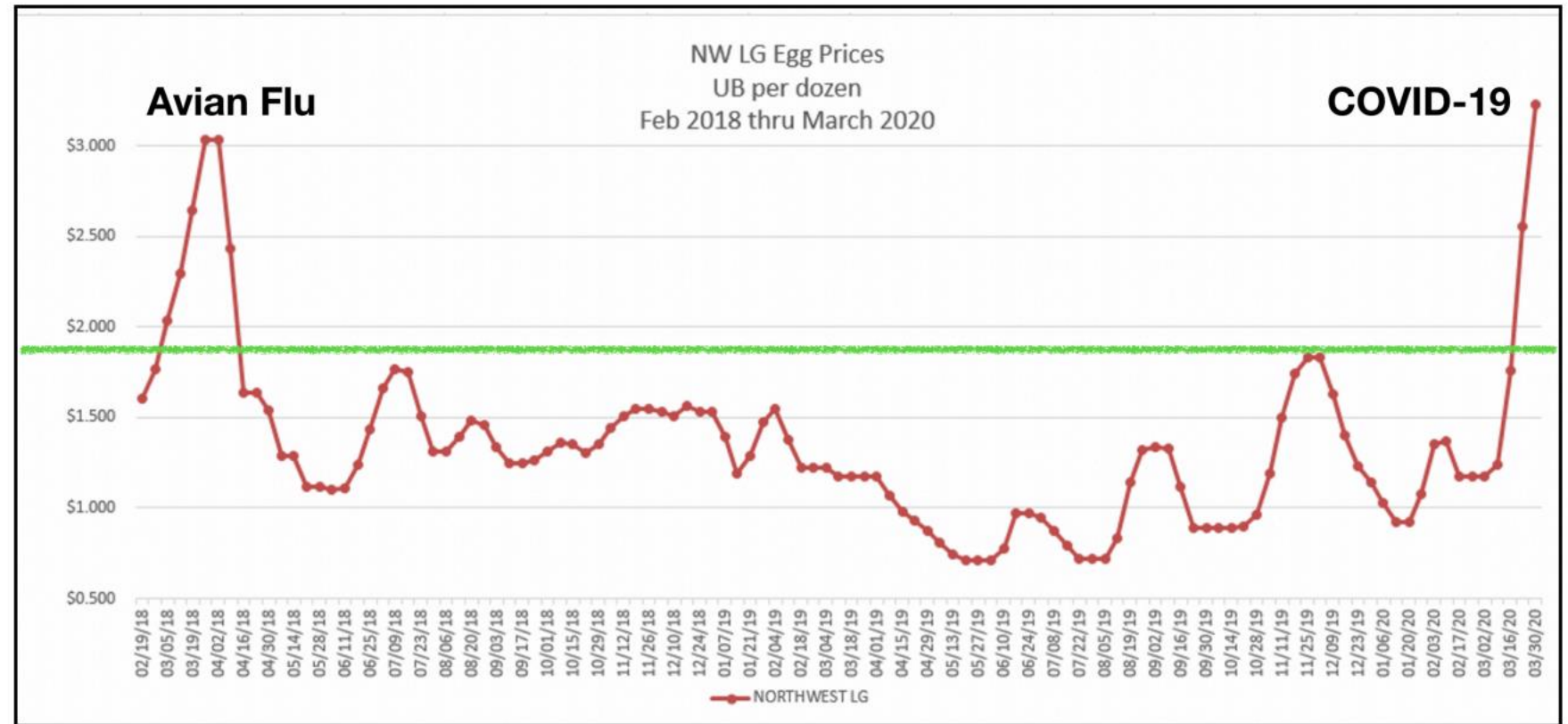
# Specifics



- ▶ Food service business continues to decline at approximately -55% due to COVID-19 orders.
- ▶ Retail business has slowed down this past week (+20% )versus the week prior (+100%) when the stay at home order went into effect. We will see in the next two weeks what the new normal looks like but we anticipate a downturn do to a lack of 240,000 tourists consumers.
- ▶ Manufacturer allocation lists are growing and currently 300+ vendors are on some type of allocation on pending orders for shortage items such as hand sanitizer's and TP.
- ▶ Absenteeism is averaging 10%, we anticipate this going up dramatically if we don't get access to COVID 19 testing and child care.
- ▶ Changes are occurring daily and sometimes hourly.
- ▶ There has been a strain on operations due to increased expenses associated with OT and increased delivery costs on the Retail side.
- ▶ Certain commodities such as eggs and meat have gone up in price nationally.

# Egg prices up Nationally due to COVID

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Mahalo for your Support of a  
Healthy Food Industry!