

Keep This in Mind
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News Outlets Remove Paywalls.

Some news sources have removed paywalls to ensure people have access to information. These outlets include, but are not limited to: New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, The Guardian and AP News. This could be a great way for individuals/staff to stay informed and have conversations during the day.

<https://lifehacker.com/where-to-access-coronavirus-news-without-a-paywall-1842300436>

Peloton Extends Free Trial Period

Peloton is a fitness application. They are known for their stationary bikes (and ads) but the app offers other exercise routines. Their free trial period has been extended to 90 days! This could be a great way for individuals/staff to stay active during the day. The app offers classes and instruction on things like yoga and meditation. YOU DO NOT NEED PELOTON EQUIPMENT TO USE THIS APP!

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/16/21182267/peloton-workout-app-trial-at-home-subscription>

Planet Fitness Offers Free Classes

Planet Fitness wants people to stay active while at home. They are offering daily “work-in” routines through Facebook Live. You can find previous videos and watch new ones live by following Planet Fitness on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/planetfitness/posts/10157386688639856>

LinkedIn Learning Courses for Remote Working – NOW FREE

If you have a LinkedIn account (or you create you), you know have access to their Learning courses for remote working. These could be useful for people who are unsure about working from home.

<https://learning.linkedin.com/blog/productivity-tips/new-to-working-remotely--these-resources-can-help>

Internet Service Providers Do Their Part

Several Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are trying to help people affected by coronavirus. Comcast, AT&T and Verizon will not terminate service for customers who cannot pay due to coronavirus disruptions, at least for the next 60 days. Also, some companies like AT&T have increased data caps for customers without unlimited data. Technology analysts expect this trend to spread and increase over the next few weeks.

Who is removing data caps - <https://www.pcworld.com/article/3532817/which-internet-providers-are-lifting-data-caps-during-the-coronavirus-and-which-arent.html>

The Keep America Connected Pledge participants (so far) - <https://www.blackenterprise.com/comcast-att-and-verizon-offering-free-internet-service-due-to-coronavirus/>

Special Hours for Vulnerable Populations

Some stores are rolling out special hours for vulnerable populations like the elderly or people with disabilities. If your individuals have a preferred store, check online or call ahead to see if they offer these special hours. Stores are cutting hours, too. So it is important to check online before going to one of these dedicated times. Here are some of the most popular options right now:

Walmart: every Tuesday between 3/24 and 4/28. It will be the hour before the store opens

Acme: every Tuesday and Thursday morning for 2 hours

Target: every Wednesday during the hour before they open to the public

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/stores-launch-special-shopping-times-seniors-and-other-groups-vulnerable-covid-19-180974447/>

PECO Suspends Service Disconnections

PECO will not disconnect services until at least May 1st. They will also waive “new late payment fees” throughout the same period. Services are available but personnel will practice social distancing and may wear protective gear. If your home is getting a service, you may want to prepare individuals for these things.

<https://www.peco.com/SafetyCommunity/Safety/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Everlywell Offers In-home COVID-19 Tests

Everlywell offers in-home lab tests for a variety of ailments. They will roll out a COVID-19 Test beginning 3/23/20. Other labs are working on similar testing kits. Everlywell will be the first one available to consumers though. The FDA allowed certified labs, private and commercial, to develop and distribute tests back in February.

<https://time.com/5805953/home-covid-19-test-everlywell/>

PA Lawmakers Offer Proposals

This is still developing. Pennsylvania lawmakers are trying to provide support to their citizens. These are just proposals though and have not passed into law. Here is a list of some current proposals:

<https://papost.org/2020/03/18/evictions-student-loans-pssas-and-more-what-pa-lawmakers-are-proposing-in-response-to-the-coronavirus/>

Free Online Concerts and Events

As concerts and events have been cancelled, some venues are switching to streaming online. If your individuals have preferred bands or artists, you may want to look into their online activity. Some bands are offering live performances at certain times. Cancelled conventions and other events may be offering online events. Again, a quick search on your preferred search engine may help you find something interesting!

ALL OVER THE PLACE!

National Parks Waive Entrance Fees

The Secretary of the Interior ordered all national parks to waive entrance fees in order to provide more space for social distancing. This applies to all national parks. Here is a list of national parks in the greater Philadelphia area: <https://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/awesome-national-parks-in-greater-philadelphia-nps/#the-liberty-bell-center>

Distilleries Join the Fight

Local distilleries are trying to help with the hand sanitizer shortage. Boardroom Spirits in Lansdale is offering 4oz free to all customers. You only have to bring your own container. Other distilleries in our area are considering similar actions. Here is a link to an article about it:

<https://6abc.com/6025300/>

UberEats Waives Fees for Restaurants

Do your individuals have a preferred takeout or dine-in place? Do they look forward to a Pizza Tuesday or Wings Wednesday? UberEats is here to help! They are still running and have waived fees typically paid by restaurants. This means that your individuals' favorite restaurant will get a bit more money when you place an order. UberEats has also enacted "social distancing" to limit exposure. The driver will ask where you want them to drop the food off (doorstep, sidewalk, etc). This could be a great way to maintain some sense of routine in these troubled times.

<https://www.cnet.com/news/uber-eats-waives-delivery-fees-amid-coronavirus-outbreak/>