

sorry, we're



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CLOSED

How the spread of COVID-19 is affecting U.S. economy and St. Louis local businesses

When news of a deadly new coronavirus in China first broke a couple of months ago, the thought that it would affect the United States, let alone St. Louis, seemed implausible. Thus, as the window for early social distancing closed, citizens alike looked on, unconcerned.

Today, COVID-19 has left entire states on lockdown as doctors struggle to treat this new virus. Medical supplies, hospital beds and healthcare professionals are in short supply, and the spread of the disease is on an upward trajectory, with thousands of new cases being confirmed daily.

While COVID-19 is straining our medical systems, another concerning effect of the pandemic has been economic decline. According to The Washington Post, 6.6 million Americans filed for unemployment as of April 2, 2020, causing the unemployment rate to jump to an estimated 13 percent.

Additionally, before a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package dubbed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act was passed by the U.S.

House of Representatives March 28, stock markets were in a free fall, with business website Quartz reporting that stock index returns fell by over 30 percent in March alone.

Across the country, local businesses have been struggling and St. Louis is no exception. As cases have skyrocketed into the thousands, hundreds of St. Louis businesses have been forced to change their services or close. Two local businesses that were forced to adapt due to COVID-19 include Deer Creek Coffee in Ladue and China King in University City.

This month's in-depth covers how these two businesses have dealt with a virus that has caused insurmountable damage to the restaurant industry. Since COVID-19 began its spread in St. Louis, every business has faced unique challenges, but their stories intersect at the end— with less customers and lost revenue.

Because local businesses bring innovation to our communities, many St. Louisans believe it is imperative to support our small businesses during this difficult time. ■

staying SUPPORTIVE

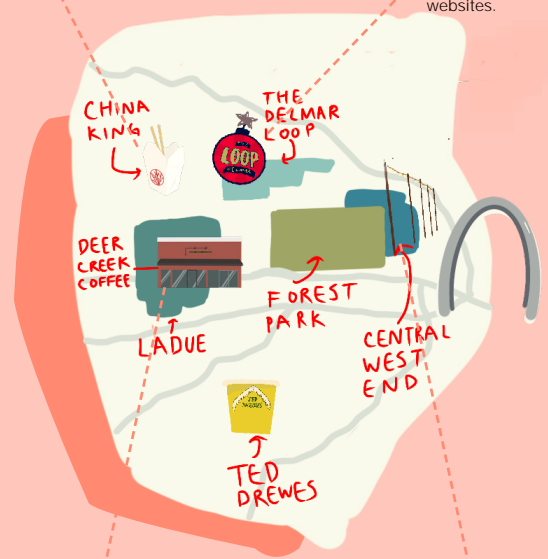
Tips to help local businesses

1 Picking it up

Use delivery or curb side pick-up services provided by all local businesses—not just restaurants. For example, businesses like China King had delivery services before closing.

2 Check in

Check to see if local businesses have altered their services. For example, many businesses in the Delmar Loop post updates on social media or their websites.



3 Gifting galore

Purchase gift cards from local businesses that offer them. For example, Deer Creek has gift cards that can be redeemed later, but support the business now.

4 Try to donate

If you bought a service that cannot be carried out, donate the fee. For example, if you paid for a fitness class in the Central West End, don't ask for a refund and donate the lesson fee.

information from Forbes