

SHOPPING ORGANIZATION EMERGENCY PLAN

April 9, 2020

DEAR COOP MEMBERS,

You guys may want to consider staggering entries based on last names. Give the older and more at risk people entry first in the morning. For the rest of the day schedule for example people with last names A-K go shopping Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and last names L-Z go shopping Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. Sunday's could rotate. Also stagger the hours, everyone is home. A-C shop for three hours and D-F next three hours, etc.....

Just a suggestion. Thanks and stay safe!

Willow Rabinovich

SUGGESTION OF CHANGES FOR THE AGING POPULATION

April 9, 2020

Hi,

I wanted to write about this concern to the Coop and do not know whether this is the right email to address it to. Please relay it to the proper department in regards to this matter.

It is already difficult for the group of older adults to shop as is before the Covid-19 and many fear the long line waits and out of stock shelves we are currently experiencing. Some supermarkets are putting in place a time slot for the elderly to do their shopping https://www.dailyiowegian.com/news/local_news/stores-adjust-hours-to--give-elderly-exclusivity/article_32f743f6-6883-11ea-b60e-0fb74cfe8a10.html

I would like to HIGHLY SUGGEST that the Coop allow an allotted time for the aging population/those at high-risk members to exclusively come to the Coop to do their shopping as this would alleviate their worries and stress and be able to get basic food and necessities to outlast this pandemic.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jenny

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

April 9, 2020

TO PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP,

I am writing this letter because there was no possibility of speaking to anyone in the office on the phone, or directly through email, and I'm not on Twitter.

I am appalled that our Coop has not come up with an entrance policy for the elderly or disabled. There is absolutely no reason why we (the aforementioned) must wait two hours or so to be able to shop. Sitting on a chair by the entrance (with people coming in, passing the chair all the time) is not the answer. If Trader Joe's, for example, can do it, letting seniors in at the front of the line, so can we. By having no policy, and no expedited entry, you are essentially preventing seniors and the disabled from shopping at the Coop at this time of Covid-19. And these are the people who in general need the fresh food and lower prices the most.

Otherwise, the Coop is doing a fantastic job during this most difficult of times.

*Cooperatively,
Eda Malenky*

HELPING OUT HIGH-RISK COOP MEMBERS

April 9, 2020

DEAR MEMBERS,

I was wondering if there's anything healthy and low-risk Coop members can do to help our fellow Coop members considered high-risk who cannot enter public spaces to limit germ exposure. If someone is in need of food or supplies but cannot leave their home, is there any way a healthy Coop member can do their shopping for them? There may be limitations based on the proximity of their home to the Coop, but maybe we can make our best efforts to establish a drop-off system, even if it requires sanitizing goods that may have come into contact with frequently touched surfaces.

Not asking this for work slot credit, I am healthy and have been social distancing but I feel there's more I could be doing to help those who are considered high-risk or are immunocompromised. Any information would be greatly appreciated, and I would be happy to collaborate with others to figure out a solution. Thank you.

Mallory Wood

NEEDED INFORMATION

April 9, 2020

DEAR MEMBERS,

Given the pressure the CV has placed on the Coop's services, you would think there would be more regular updates about the Coop's responsiveness to the situation; particularly on the status of food availability (As of 3/14, their last update on the home page was on 3/5!). Instead, we are relegated to standing on line to get into the Coop only to find out when we're shopping that our primary food needs are not available.

When Hurricane Sandy caused a temporary gas shortage, BP set up a web page you could check by zip code that informed the public about scheduled gas deliveries and existing gas levels at their stations; mitigating the need to wait hours on a gas line. The Coop has coordinators roaming the floor at all times checking shelf inventory. Why can't a similar system be set up where the Coop posts the status of inventory levels of at least key items (i.e. staples). There are only so many hours in the day and available places to shop for needed supplies. The Coop should make a greater effort to inform its members of food supplies on a more real-time basis.

Jeff Wolfman

ON LINE OUTSIDE

April 9, 2020

DEAR MEMBERS,

There is a line going down to Fifth Avenue. They say 45 mins waiting. I moved 1 foot in 40 mins. You must tell people to HURRY UP. I see people loading their car. So unfair that the Management at the Coop allows that.

Rino Varrasso

KUDOS TO THE COOP/HAPPY TO STAND ON LINE

April 9, 2020

DEAR PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP,

We want to thank you for the heart-warming and inspiring experience of shopping at the Coop last Saturday (March 14th) in the midst of the coronavirus crisis. In 2012, after being an active working Coop member from 1978 till I retired 30+ years later, my husband and I moved 100 miles away. In 2019 a new rule enabled my husband (at age 71 and a working member for over 10 years) to retire, and we rejoined as “elders” (who can shop without working shifts), driving in monthly to partake of the Coop’s bounty.

This weekend after making a remarkably traffic-free 100-mile drive into Brooklyn, we stood for an hour on a friendly line with fellow Coop members after which a firm but friendly monitor let us into the Coop four at a time (so as not to overload the shopping floor in this time of social distancing). We then entered an exceptionally cooperative and even harmonious environment where there was plenty of whatever we needed on most shelves with workers scurrying to replenish most of what was missing.

We left completely secure in having whatever we need to nourish ourselves over the next several weeks lest we’re quarantined. And feeling reassured that the possibility of cooperation and harmony is not only possible in this world but actually already exists at our Coop.

Appreciatively,

Heidi Rain, Tom Oleszczuk

P.S. Thanks, Joe! The Coop today is not only still surviving but thriving, in large part

due to your strong persevering guidance.