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# Illinois Sustainable Technology Center

# NEWS

## MARCH 2020 FOOD & BEVERAGE MANUFACTURING NEWS



### Coronavirus' impacts on North American manufacturers

*Thomas Insights, 3/19/20*

Thomas has released [a follow-up](#) to their [February survey](#) reporting on how the coronavirus outbreak is affecting U.S. manufacturing. Their February survey examined over 1,000 North American manufacturing and industrial suppliers to determine the current impact and learn more about the solutions companies are implementing to meet surging sourcing demands.

A key finding in the new survey shows that over half of manufacturers are 'likely to extremely likely' to bring production and sourcing back to North America. Additionally, 47% of U.S manufacturers report they are now

seeking domestic sources of supply.

Read more in [Coronavirus' Impacts on North American Manufacturers \(March 2020 update\)](#). Thomas has also launched the [Coronavirus Resource Hub for Manufacturing](#) to help link companies with the information they need.

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## Alcohol companies pivot to producing hand sanitizer as COVID-19 intensifies

*Food Dive, 3/23/20*

As consumers are emptying store shelves of hand sanitizer and causing shortages, spirit makers are producing branded hand sanitizers that they are donating, [according to Beverage Industry](#). Both [local distilleries](#) and nationally recognized companies such as Pernod Ricard, [Diageo](#) and [Anheuser-Busch](#) are taking part in producing hand sanitizer. Parade Magazine [has compiled](#) a running list of these distilleries.



This surge in distillery-produced hand sanitizer follows the [FDA's announcement last week](#) that the agency will permit certain facilities and licensed professionals to produce hand sanitizer as long as they follow the agency's prescribed recipe.

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## Hazardous chemicals in food packaging declared a 'global health threat'

*Food Navigator, 3/11/20*

Environmental and public health groups [have declared](#) a 'global health threat' following warnings that chemicals in single-use plastic and food packaging jeopardise human and planetary health.



## How can the beverage industry bring about a sea change in sustainability?

*Beverage Daily, 2/11/20*

The drinks industry scores a measly 4.8 out of 10 for sustainability in [a recent report](#). How can it improve?



## OTHER STORIES

### Agriculture

- [A new global foresight tool hopes to predict the future of agriculture](#) (*Food Tank*, March 2020)

### Energy, Water, and Waste

- [Solar and wind strategies for renewable and sustainable energy](#) (*Refrigerated & Frozen Food*, 3/12/20)

### Packaging

- [Disposable plastic is bad for the environment, but is it illegal? Coca-Cola and Pepsi are about to find out](#) (*Fast Company*, 3/6/20)
- [Nature's Yoke to eliminate single-use rPET plastic egg cartons in 2020](#) (*Refrigerated & Frozen Food*, 3/13/20)
- [Plastic a top priority as R&D budgets shift to sustainable innovation](#) (*Food Navigator*, 3/16/20)
- [Water in aluminum bottles. Straw-less lids. Reusable cups. As plastic waste concerns grow, the search for sustainable packaging has gone mainstream.](#) (*Chicago Tribune*, 2/21/20)



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