

## Businesses Benefiting from Corona

BY ANNA FRITZE

**B**ecause of businesses shutting down and restaurants closing their doors, many companies are losing millions of dollars. It seems like the virus is so bad that there could be no one benefiting from this horrible disease. However, some companies, and some people, are.

The worst people who are benefiting are those who saw the potential of what could happen and looked at how they could benefit from the pandemic instead of how they could help. There have been many people who bought supplies like face masks and hand sanitizer in bulk, so much of these supplies that they knew there was no way they would be using it all. Now, hospitals are running low on these supplies. The people who bought the supplies in bulk are reselling them online for outrageous prices. On places like eBay, face masks are going for up to fifty dollars each. Hospitals, already stripped of resources, have no other choice but to pay these ridiculous prices with the hope that they can save more lives with the supplies. There has been talking of making this illegal, and even being able to put out warrants for arrest for the people selling these essential items for ridiculous prices.

There are major companies who are making a great amount of profit from the coronavirus as well. Some of these include streaming services, like Netflix and Hulu. Viewing has gone up for those who already had subscriptions, and thousands of more subscriptions have been purchased. Clorox, Purell, and other cleaning supply companies have been making money during this time as people are buying as many cleaning supplies as they can get their hands on, which really isn't much these days. Campbell's is another company benefiting as people buy food that will sit in the cupboards longer if anything dire were to happen in the near future.

Of course, people who are reselling facemasks, hand sanitizers, and the like for higher prices should not be allowed to do so. Seeing this pandemic as an investment opportunity for themselves is pretty disgusting. When it comes to these large companies benefiting from the pandemic, no one can really place blame on them. It is lucky that they can be helpful at such a time. However, there has been no word of how these companies are giving back. It's great that they are prospering, but it is widespread news that many are struggling; many small businesses have even shut their doors forever due to the virus. Hopefully, in the near future, these companies will look into how they can help others with their success.

## Coronavirus Stimulus Checks

BY ANNA FRITZE

**I**t's no secret that while people are physically suffering from the coronavirus, the economy is suffering as well. Schools, businesses, and restaurant shut-downs were needed to slow the spread of the virus, of course, but with businesses shutting down, many people are not making the income that they need to sustain themselves. This need could be fulfilled with stimulus checks, which is money provided by the government to help people in need.

In late March, the government passed the CARES Act in response to the damage the coronavirus had the potential to cause. According to Forbes, "As part of this new legislation, individual workers, independent contractors, gig workers, and freelancers are immediately entitled to receive a one time \$1,200 payment (\$2,400 for married couples) from the IRS, plus an additional \$500 per dependent 16 years or younger." There are other requirements needed to qualify for this, but once you've met the qualifications, the check is sent to you or added to your bank account. While this seems like it is a good thing, many people have issues with the stimulus checks.

There are people in need of money to pay bills, yes, but hospitals are also in great need of money to be able to properly take care of patients and reduce deaths. Some see the stimulus checks as taking money away from hospitals that need it more to save lives. Not only this, but the government is already billions of dollars in debt. Some people think that the government does not have enough money to pay the millions of people who need help during this crisis.

I think that the arguments that people are making against the government are sound ones, but there is also the fact that the government knew about the virus back in January. Of course, it was not as bad back then as it is now, but we started the same way China and Italy did, so it must have been common knowledge to those watching out for the coronavirus that we would eventually end up like them, and turns out, we ended up much worse.

The severity of how bad corona was in America really wasn't brought to the public's attention until it was very severe--until then, we were told that we would be fine, that we have "the best economy," and "the best people." These statements didn't cure the country, and now many people are out of work and don't know how to pay for their bills, for their rent, and for food. Because of this, the government is obligated to take care of their people. There will be a lot of rebuilding to do once this pandemic is over, but until then, we can only stay home and survive.

## Do Introverts Have an Advantage in Quarantine?

BY HALLE MARTIN

**D**o introverts have an advantage in quarantine? The first answer that comes to mind might be an obvious yes. Introverts typically prefer to be by themselves and spend their downtime at home, but that doesn't necessarily mean they want to be home for months on end and can't fall victim to a little cabin fever.

As an introvert, I'm more likely to spend my Friday nights at home relaxing rather than going out socializing, but that doesn't mean I constantly want to be at home by myself. Prior to the shelter-in-place order, I would often be away from home for twelve to fourteen hours a day. A majority of that time was spent interacting with others, as I work in customer service. By the end of the day, I'd drained, ready to go home, and be in my own space. Coming home was the equivalent of a sigh of relief and allowed me to recharge and alleviate the stress of talking to people all day long.

Now, being stuck at home all day has started to take that feeling of a weight off my shoulders. Just because I don't constantly want to be surrounded by people or engage in small talk doesn't mean I hate human interaction. I miss my friends, my family, and my coworkers. I miss going to shows and restaurants. Humans need to interact with each other (introverts included) and being home for weeks on end is hard. Home has become a small box closing in on me rather than the solitude it once was.

While a week or two in total isolation might be appealing, staying home for months is uncomfortable and nerve-racking. Another introvert trait is being very in tune with your own thoughts. Introverts spend a lot of time inside their head and prefer thinking about things rather than talking about them. The shelter-in-place order doesn't allow me the regular distractions that get me out of my head. Instead, I'm left with my thoughts all day, every day, and that can be scary. It's hard not to overthink things and make problems bigger than they are when there's literally nothing else to do. I'm not only trapped in my house, but I'm also trapped in my mind, and that isn't the best place to be when the world appears to be falling apart.

Shelter-in-place and social distancing might seem like an introvert's dream and, okay, maybe the first week or so was nice, but every day is a challenge. The end date keeps getting pushed further and further back and the uncertainty is difficult to cope with, especially as important dates come and go and I am still at home, unable to see loved ones and missing important events. My present and my future are looking very different, and all I want is to get back to my life.