

One Year Later, Businesses Lead the Nation's Recovery

One year ago, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic.

That day came with a flurry of news: President Donald Trump suspended travel from Europe, Italy closed all restaurants and shops, the NBA suspended its season, St. Patrick's Day parades were being cancelled, the first Congressional staffer tested positive, and Washington D.C.'s mayor followed 23 other states in declaring a state of emergency.

Yet, in the face of the escalating global crisis, **businesses stepped up.**

What happened: Over this past year, American businesses—large and small—became a fundamental part of helping our economy and communities adapt and recover from the pandemic.

- Pharmaceutical companies are on track to [produce more than 14 billion vaccine doses](#) by the end of 2021 – enough to fully vaccinate nearly 80% of the global population.
- Stanley Black & Decker [accelerated production](#) to build fasteners for hospital beds, ventilators, and other products needed for field hospitals.
- Compass Coffee shifted its syrup bottling operation to [make hand sanitizer](#)—a pivot that kept the business afloat and helped the community.
- When United Airlines had excess uniforms, Looptworks, a small company in Portland, [turned the material into 7,500 masks](#) and gave them to United employees.
- AmerisourceBergen Foundation [donated more than \\$1 million](#) in emergency grants for pandemic response efforts to more than 20 nonprofits, including Americares, a nonprofit working to train healthcare workers in COVID-specific mental health challenges.

What's next: Hundreds of businesses have shared with us their stories of grit, ingenuity, and problem-solving, and businesses will continue to step up to fight the pandemic on all fronts. Now that safe and effective vaccines are available, businesses are rallying around a common goal: accelerate vaccinations, reopen safely, and defeat the pandemic.

- [Join the Rally for Recovery initiative.](#)

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