

# How COVID-19 Is Impacting Babies and Families



**The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the health and well-being of families across the country. As policymakers make decisions about the best response for our country, it is critical that they keep in mind the needs of the youngest and their families. The comments below highlight the threat of this crisis to families and babies across the country.**

“I work in a pharmacy and come into contact with sick people every day. I stress that I could become exposed and then bring that back into my house and expose my kids and husband as well.”

- **Sarah from Farmington, MO**

“I have two medically complex children. If my husband and I get sick, there is almost no one who knows how to care for my son with the most complex needs. Plus, we have been required to requalify for his Medicaid. They changed the date, and now they want materials by next Wednesday. Unfortunately, however, everything is shut down, and I can't get the required paperwork.”

- **Susan from Oxford, MS**

“I went into work today, and not even an hour later they asked me to go home because I have a cough. I did not test positive for COVID-19 (which is a BIG relief), but I was still sent home so I did not make any employees uncomfortable. Without pay. This is a big worry for me as I still have bills to pay and food to put on the table.”

- **Laura from Matawan, NJ**

“Schools are closing for Spring Break here in Oklahoma, and may close after Spring Break as well. Things will be tight for families who rely on school breakfasts and lunches. I am setting meal plans while they are at home. Kids love snacking, but I need to make sure all needs are met!”

- **Shalyone from Tulsa, OK**

“I know the people who work at my daughter's child care are all hourly. Our favorite one is currently pregnant, due in a couple weeks. How are they all going to get by if child care is closed? Or if she has to deliver a baby in a hospital that has been exposed to the virus? My heart goes out to the families who will be struggling through this.”

- **Katie from Springville, UT**

“I run a child care center, and we are following the lead of the Department of Health on when and if we close. Parents and staff are stressed. Staff are worried because they will not be paid, and families seem most worried about access to child care. Grandparents caring for their grandchildren are also worried about health.”

- **Jen from Fletcher, VT**

“Schools in Oregon are being closed for two weeks. That means that my daughter’s child care center is closed. My little girl doesn’t get to go to child care, which she loves, and it gives her two meals a day. I am worried we will not have enough food.”

- **Christy from Talent, OR**

“My kid can potty train when his wipes and pull ups run out, but there’s moms that have young kids who have no way to get diapers and wipes if or when they run out. Formula is running out in my town. There needs to be some effort to change the situation, otherwise babies will not get what they need.”

- **Jamie from Gillette, WY**

-

“I am working from home, though if I need to stay home with my young children, my ability to work is greatly diminished. I don’t have any paid time off at this time, because my children have appointments and illnesses too, so it would possibly be without pay. This would cripple our family’s finances, where we need both incomes just to survive. At this point, I have more anxiety about finances than I do about staying healthy and virus free.”

- **Autumn from Conde, SD**

“My child care follows the public school schedule. Due to the closing of the schools here in Colorado, I am not able to work right now. That means I don’t get paid.”

- **Ealasha from Denver, CO**

“I am worried that layoffs are coming soon.”

- **Anonymous from Silver Spring, MD**

“My husband works in the car industry, and was just laid off. It is only supposed to be short-term, but I suspect sales will go down and hours will be cut. Right now, I am not working because I am taking care of my dad, who is ill, so I have no income. I am going to try to get back on WIC next week.”

- **Emily from Temperance, MI**

“My twins were born over two years ago, and my paid sick leave hasn’t rebuilt itself yet. So in order to stay home and self quarantine as advised, I would have to use all of my sick time and vacation (not even two weeks!) or go into leave without pay status. Caring for our families should not have to mean paying our bills and feeding our children or being present at home and going hungry together.”

- **Juliane from Orem, UT**

“I had surgery right before the virus had gotten to the level it is at now. I had expected to be out of work for two weeks (no paid leave). Now, I can’t work both because I have an increased health risk and because child care is closed. So my two children and myself are trying to make ends meet with no pay, no work, and no assistance that I could possibly get fast enough to help. I truly hope that the government is going to be sending help to families like mine because we desperately need it.”

- **Sierra from Sylacauga, AL**

“I'm hoping that things calm down, because hoarding is affecting the resources we need to buy for our every day life. People have bought up all the baby Tylenol in all the stores in our area as well as diapers and wipes, and my daughter has such sensitive skin there are only one brand of wipes and diapers that don't give her rashes.”

- **Tess from Oregon City, OR**

“I was sick at the beginning of this week. By Wednesday, the boys were sick too. We've confirmed both boys have pneumonia. I've been at home with them since Wednesday because my husband didn't yet have sick leave, which was supposed to kick in at his one-year anniversary in August. Fortunately, the organization's president took the step to assure staff that everyone will have access to paid sick leave. We know we are lucky – not everyone has that.”

- **Ke'ōpū from Honolulu, HI**

“Due to the pandemic, our daughter's child care will be closed indefinitely. Since we are under contract, we will still have to pay child care fees on weekly basis. Because of our nation's lack of paid leave and affordable child care, my husband and I had to make a decision. My husband will stay home with Ava which means cutting our income to one. And with one income we still have to pay the same amount of monthly expenses including child care fees.”

- **Shiela from Bridgeport, CT**

“I am a hospital (inpatient critical care) worker and a military wife. I have no sick leave or paid time off available, and I have three kids. School is cancelled for at least 2 weeks. This is insane. We can, and must, do better.”

- **Cate from Norfolk, VA**