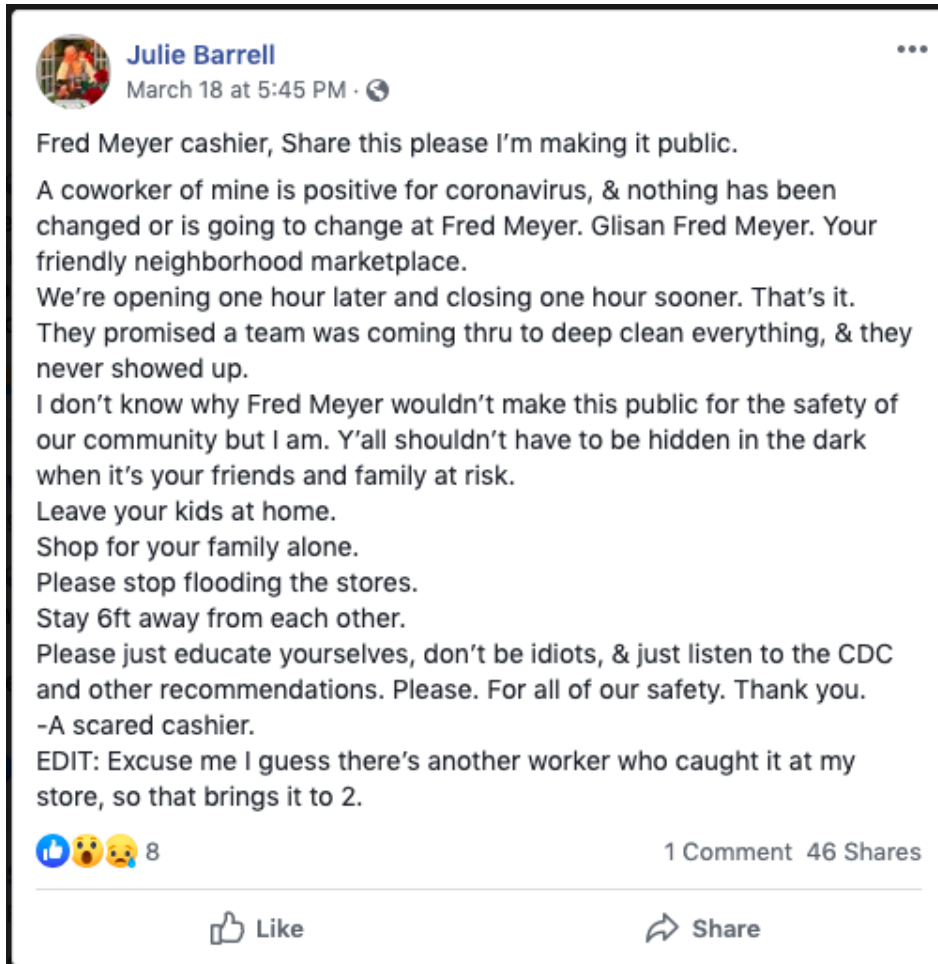Dear Congresspeople & UFCW union leaders,

It has come to my attention that local grocery stores, namely Fred Meyer, are not taking the health and safety of their employees. Specifically, one of their cashiers has reported the following on Facebook (I've also included the screenshot below): that proper cleaning has not been done; that two of the employees have tested positive for COVID-19; and there are no measures being taken to prevent customers from being too close to one another or to protect cashiers who must interact with customers at closer than 3 feet. This is my local Fred Meyer. I have an autoimmune disorder and cannot afford to fall ill with COVID-19 on top of my existing health conditions.

Julie Barrell
March 18 at 5:45 PM · 🌐   •••

Fred Meyer cashier, Share this please I'm making it public.

A coworker of mine is positive for coronavirus, & nothing has been changed or is going to change at Fred Meyer. Glisan Fred Meyer. Your friendly neighborhood marketplace.
We're opening one hour later and closing one hour sooner. That's it.
They promised a team was coming thru to deep clean everything, & they never showed up.
I don't know why Fred Meyer wouldn't make this public for the safety of our community but I am. Y'all shouldn't have to be hidden in the dark when it's your friends and family at risk.
Leave your kids at home.
Shop for your family alone.
Please stop flooding the stores.
Stay 6ft away from each other.
Please just educate yourselves, don't be idiots, & just listen to the CDC and other recommendations. Please. For all of our safety. Thank you.
-A scared cashier.
EDIT: Excuse me I guess there's another worker who caught it at my store, so that brings it to 2.

👍😮😢 8   1 Comment 46 Shares

👍 Like   ➦ Share

I implore you to not only release a statement of best practices for protecting employees and shoppers, but to also pressure our state's grocery retailers to put safety precautions in place, as well as making funding available to take the proper precautions and provide protection to employees who must interact with the public. It is clear from both reports in places where the disease has spread farther, like Italy, and from my observations of Oregonians, that unless new guidelines are put in place by the government, there will be people who fail to heed "advice" because they feel that it does not pertain to them, or that they personally are not at a high risk.

We need to have reliable, safe access to food. Employees working in these stores should be treated as first-responders of sorts, as they are the front lines of making sure that all Oregonians are fed and have access to supplies they need to care for themselves and their families during this unprecedented outbreak. Their continued ability to do their jobs is nearly as vital as the healthcare workers who are providing care to the sick. This is why we must act now, before it's too late.

Sincerely,
Kaj Jensen

Linked In | kajjensen.com | (971) 754 8180
My pronouns are they/them.
My first name is pronounced to rhyme with "sky."