**Local News Outlets Drop Paywalls for Pandemic Stories**

Mark Katches, Executive Editor of the Tampa Bay Times, said his news outlet was one of the first to move virus stories outside its paywall. Despite the ability to read those stories without paying, people are buying digital subscriptions at double or triple the usual rate, he said.

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<https://localnewsinitiative.northwestern.edu/posts/2020/03/25/digital-subscriptions-virus/index.html?utm_source=API+Need+to+Know+newsletter&utm_campaign=e8e433a3ed-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_27_12_33&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e3bf78af04-e8e433a3ed-31697553>