



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

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WCMA distributes member bulletins focused on coronavirus information on Thursdays and as breaking news warrants. WCMA delivers electronic newsletters with broader content on Tuesdays. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

CDC Expands Definition of "Close Contact"

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Wednesday [revised its definition of a "close contact"](#) to include anyone within six feet of a person infected with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period, as opposed to 15 consecutive minutes.

For more on this change, see the news articles linked below.

- *Washington Post*: [CDC expands definition of who is a 'close contact' of an individual with COVID-19](#)
- *Associated Press*: [CDC redefines COVID-19 close contact, adds brief encounter](#)
- *Business Insider*: [A series of one-minute interactions gave a correctional officer the coronavirus, prompting new CDC guidance about brief exposure](#)

Stimulus Negotiations Continue, While Senate Bill Fails and Hopes Fade for Pre-Election Approval

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and U.S. Department of the Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin say they are [on track](#) to reach an agreement over a coronavirus stimulus package by the end of this week, though hopes are fading for Congressional approval prior to Election Day.

While the White House is messaging interest in a package totaling even [more than the \\$2 trillion proposed](#) by House Democrats, Senate Republican leaders are [indicating opposition](#).

A [simpler bill](#) from Senate Republicans, designed to offer business liability protection, reauthorize the Paycheck Protection Program and offer a \$300-per-week unemployment enhancer, was rejected Wednesday on party lines.

CFAP Round 2 Payments Now Total \$6.1 Billion

The U.S. Department of Agriculture this week reports it has [distributed \\$6.1 billion](#) in direct relief payments to farmers via the second round of its Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, including \$625 million to dairy farmers.

WDATCP Asks for Industry Partnership to Maintain Inspection Schedules

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) is calling on the state's dairy manufacturers and processors to partner with them to maintain timely inspection schedules, as the pandemic continues.

WDATCP has [sent letters](#) to businesses regulated and inspected by its Food and Recreational Safety Division - including other food processors and grocers, following the quarantine of inspectors who had been in contact with COVID-19-positive individuals during recent facility visits. Letters ask that plant staff wear face masks and observe social distancing guidelines while inspectors are present.

ACLU Files Open Records Request for Information on Wisconsin Food Processing Facility Outbreaks

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Wisconsin this week filed an [open records request](#) with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for information regarding response to and preparedness for COVID-19 outbreaks in the state's food processing facilities. WCMA will keep members informed of state officials' response.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *The Today Show*: [Hispanic food processing and farm workers more likely to be diagnosed with COVID-19](#)
- *WEAU-TV*: [Checks on the way for the second Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#)

Wisconsin

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [State Fair Park field hospital admits first coronavirus patient as Wisconsin sets a new record for deaths amid surge in cases](#)
- *CBS News*: [A look inside the COVID-19 ward at Wisconsin's largest hospital](#)
- *WUWM-AM*: ['It's going to get worse': Coronavirus pandemic prognosis looks bleak in Wisconsin](#)
- *KMSP-TV*: [Northeast Wisconsin metro areas make up eight of top ten for U.S. COVID-19 cases](#)
- *Sheboygan Press*: [Sheboygan County issues second COVID-19 emergency alert as active cases pass 1,000](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [With COVID-19 cases rising, Dane County contact](#)

[tracing starts 'crisis model'](#)

National/International

- *New York Times*: [Why the worst coronavirus outbreaks are now in rural areas](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. on brink of rampant coronavirus spread, Europe hospitals strained](#)
- *NBC News*: [Pandemic accelerates with 18.5 percent jump in new U.S. cases](#)
- *The Hill*: [Nearly one million people have run out of unemployment payments](#)
- *FOX Business*: [Number of Americans filing for jobless aid falls to 787,000, lowest since March](#)

Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) for More Resources

WCMA will provide links to new and timely coronavirus resources for members in these bulletins, but we want to alert you that we update our coronavirus resources page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) daily. Please visit the page for additional information on employee safety, regulatory flexibility, operations guidance, federal and state support, and ways to salute your critical, essential staff.

WCMA Key Contacts

WCMA staff is continuously reaching out to dairy manufacturer and processor members throughout this crisis to identify ways we can be of service. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at any time. Here are ways to get in touch.

- WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer: jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org or 608-225-7130
 - WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org or 608-386-3012
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