

# WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

## CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Bulletin Distributed: May 20, 2021

*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.*

### OSHA Endorses New CDC Masking Guidance

Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) release of [updated mask guidance](#) for fully vaccinated individuals on May 13, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) this week [advised employers](#) that the new CDC guidance can be applied to all workplaces outside of the health care field, and OSHA advisories would soon be updated.

### 21 States Move to Refuse Federal Jobless Boost

A growing number of states are moving to [refuse the federal unemployment booster](#) of \$300 per week, with many business leaders calling it a disincentive to work. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming officials have all announced they will stop offering the additional aid sometime this summer. Federal unemployment boosts are otherwise set to expire on September 6.

In Wisconsin, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) and State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) [introduced a similar proposal](#) on Tuesday, May 18, saying their bill could be up for floor votes as early as June. Governor Tony Evers has stated he is [strongly considering vetoing](#) the legislation, should it reach his desk.

### Wisconsin Lawmakers Vote to Require Work Search

## for Unemployment Aid, Beginning Sunday

The Wisconsin Legislature's joint rules committee, led by Sen. Steve Nass (R-Whitewater), [voted this week](#) to eliminate an emergency rule waiving work search requirements for unemployment eligibility. This means that, beginning Sunday, May 23, individuals must again apply for jobs on a weekly basis to obtain benefits. The waiver was first adopted by the Legislature in March 2020, and would have expired in July.

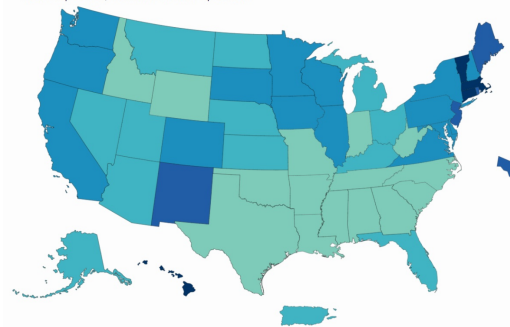
Wisconsin's unemployment rate stands at 3.8 percent, similar to the pre-pandemic rate of 3.5 percent in February 2020.

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## Nearly Half of All Americans Partially Vaccinated

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today announced that nearly 160 million Americans, roughly 48 percent of the total population, have now received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination, while more than 125 million Americans are fully vaccinated.

Total Doses Administered Reported to the CDC by State/Territory and for Select Federal Entities per 100,000 of the Total Population



Vaccination [rates vary widely](#) across the country; to track progress in your area, the CDC updates an [interactive map](#) daily.

[Click Here to Find a Vaccine Appointment Now](#)

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## WCMA to Host Vaccine Confidence Webinar May 27



[Register now](#) to join in a free WCMA webinar on Thursday, May 27 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. (CT), focused on strategies to build vaccine confidence and participation rates among dairy processing's valued workforce.

This WCMA webinar will feature Elise Balzer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Advisor for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, detailing resources and messages to convey vaccine safety and efficacy, and to combat misinformation.

WCMA will reserve time at the end of the webinar for responses to member questions. To submit questions in advance and remain anonymous, simply

send them by 12 noon (CT) on Tuesday, May 25 to [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

[Register Now](#)

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## Coronavirus Headline News

### Dairy Industry

- *Progressive Dairy*: [Lawmakers urge additional dairy aid](#)
- *Pro Publica*: [Hundreds of PPP loans went to fake farms in absurd places](#)

### Wisconsin

- *WBAY-TV*: [Wisconsin nearing 5 million shots and 40 percent fully vaccinated](#)
- *WEAU-TV*: [Wisconsin's COVID-19 averages for cases, deaths fall, matching national trend](#)

### National/International

- *Associated Press*: [U.S. jobless claims fall again as some states end federal aid](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. weekly jobless claims decline further; mid-Atlantic factory activity cools](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Nervous workers struggle to adjust to new mask policies](#)

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## Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](#) for More Resources

WCMA's coronavirus resources page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](#) is updated daily, featuring information on employee safety, regulatory flexibility, operations guidance, federal and state support, and salutes to your critical, essential staff.

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## WCMA Key Contacts

Members with pandemic-related questions or concerns should feel encouraged to contact WCMA staff at any time. Here are ways to get in touch.

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