



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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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.

EEOC Issues New Vaccine Guidance for Employers

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has issued [new COVID-19 vaccine-related guidance](#) for employers, addressing the following key topics:

Mandatory Vaccination

The EEOC now expressly states that, subject to reasonable accommodation considerations under Title VII and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), federal laws do not prevent an employer from requiring all employees physically entering the workplace to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

Vaccine Records and Inquiries

The EEOC guidance also states that information about an employee's vaccination status is considered "confidential medical information" under the ADA. Like all medical information, it must be kept confidential and stored separately from the employee's hard-copy or electronic personnel file. It also states that employers may legally ask employees whether they obtained the vaccine from a third party in the community (pharmacy, personal doctor, etc.), and this question is not a "disability-related inquiry."

Vaccination of Employee Subsets

EEOC notes that employers may offer voluntary vaccinations to certain groups of employees and not to others, so long as the employer does not discriminate in the offering based on a protected class or otherwise violate other EEO laws.

Vaccine Incentives

Employers may offer incentives to employees to voluntarily provide documentation or other confirmation that they received a vaccine from a third-party vaccine provider, or who voluntarily receive a vaccination administered

by the employer, so long as the incentive is not so substantial as to be coercive.

White House Announces New Public-Private Partnerships to Incentivize Vaccination

Calling for a "month of action" to drive vaccination rates higher, President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced [public-private partnerships](#) to incentivize vaccination, including these offerings:

- WCMA member Kroger will give \$1 million away to a vaccinated person each week this month, and will offer free groceries for a year to dozens of people.
- Major League Baseball will host on-site clinics at games and offer free tickets to newly-vaccinated individuals.
- CVS is running a sweepstakes to win free cruises and Super Bowl tickets.
- DoorDash will provide \$2 million in gift cards at community vaccination clinics for newly-vaccinated individuals.
- Anheuser-Busch officials said they would offer \$5 vouchers for any of their products to 200,000 people once Biden's 70 percent goal is met.
- Daycare centers including KinderCare, Learning Care Group, Bright Horizons and more than 500 YMCAs nationwide will provide free childcare coverage for Americans getting their shots or recovering from side effects.

These incentives are on top of a growing number of state-sponsored prizes, which the White House has also encouraged.

To date, nearly 63 percent of adult Americans, or 51 percent of the total population, have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. President Biden has set a goal to reach 70 percent of the adult population with one dose by July 4. The rate of new vaccinations nationwide has slowed again to below 600,000 per day, down from a peak of nearly 2 million per day in early April.

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

Wisconsin Small Business Recovery Grant Applications Due Monday, June 7

Wisconsin-based WCMA members are encouraged to [apply now](#) for \$420 million in Wisconsin Tomorrow Small Business Recovery Grants. Applications are due Monday, June 7.

This new grants program will provide as many as 84,000 Wisconsin small businesses with a flat award of \$5,000. Eligible businesses will have an annual gross revenue between \$10,000 and \$7 million. Grant money can be used for any business operating costs, including but not limited to wages and salaries, rent, mortgages, and inventory, and/or for health and safety improvements.

The [application form](#) should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Awards will be distributed by June 30.

Answers to [frequently asked questions](#) are available online, and [WCMA staff](#) are available to help members as needed.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Dairy Foods*: [Cheese has a post-pandemic recipe for success](#)
(Featuring WCMA member Sargento Foods)

Wisconsin

- *WITI-TV*: [Wisconsin businesses can't find workers, citing unemployment benefits](#)
- *WISN-TV*: [Gov. Tony Evers defends additional \\$300 a week in federal unemployment](#)
- *WKOW-TV*: [GOP bill would bar businesses from requesting vaccine proof](#)
- *WAOW-TV*: [COVID-19 hospitalizations in Wisconsin drop 92 percent since November](#)
- *WISC-TV*: [COVID testing, vaccines at Alliant Energy Center to end June 30th](#)

National/International

- *New York Times*: [See which states are falling behind Biden's vaccination goal](#)
- *NBC News*: [COVID cases in U.S. fall to levels not seen since March 2020](#)
- *FOX Business*: [Half of all U.S. states to terminate Biden-backed COVID-19 unemployment benefits early](#)
- *Politico*: [Biden admin reveals plans for first 25 million donated vaccine doses](#)

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

WCMA's coronavirus resources page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.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.

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:
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- WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org or 608-386-3012

