



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: April 29, 2020

As often news and needs warrant, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association will distribute special bulletins alerting you to information and resources related to industry operations and coronavirus (COVID-19). Your WCMA staff is here to support you, and we thank you for your important work.

DAIRY FOOD SAFETY ALLIANCE



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Dairy Food Safety Alliance Issues New COVID-19 Return to Work Protocol

Members of the Dairy Food Safety Alliance, including staff experts from the Center for Dairy Research (CDR), Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW), and WCMA, today issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) to guide dairy manufacturers and processors, [when an employee who tested positive for COVID-19 returns to work](#)

This SOP is in addition to a guidance document updated on April 14, noting [procedures when a dairy manufacturer or processor initially has an employee test positive for COVID-19](#).

Please contact [WCMA staff](#) if you have questions about these resources, or need additional assistance. Many thanks to CDR's Marianne Smukowski and DFW's Adam Brock for their dedicated work on this project.

Dairy Food Safety Alliance Webinar Available Online

The Dairy Food Safety Alliance hosted a webinar this afternoon, detailing both SOPs

and various hot topics, including facemasks, sanitation and disinfection procedures, and employee monitoring practices. Nearly 100 people participated in the event, and now WCMA is making the webinar publicly available. Please click the linked video below to watch, and let [WCMA staff](#) know if you have follow-up questions.



OHSA Issues Guidance on Worker Exposure Risk

Noted in today's DFSA webinar, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration has issued [guidance on preparing workplaces for COVID-19](#). Note especially pages 18-26 on the various tiers of risk.

FDA Issues Guidance Proper Use of on Non-Contact Thermometers for Temperature Screenings

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued [guidance on the proper use of non-contact infrared thermometers](#) for the purpose of temperature checks.

The U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission has also issued [employer guidance](#), noting when temperature checks may be taken.

Evers Plans Ag Aid Announcement Next Week

In the Tuesday edition of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin's new [Dairy Signal](#) program, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers announced he is making plans for \$1.9 million in federal funding for the state. He noted, "We received various requests and [agriculture was part of that](#). We're finalizing that within the next week and believe that we can be helpful in that arena." WCMA continues to advocate for members' pressing needs at the state level.

Wisconsin to Offer Temporary Food Benefits for

Children Missing School Meals

Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced today is it [providing \\$140 million dollars in food benefits](#) to families qualified for free or reduced lunches via the National School Lunch Program through June. The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer or P-EBT monies will be loaded on cards for families to use to [purchase food at grocery stores or farmer's markets, as available](#).

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Evers administration orders immediate five percent reduction in state spending](#)
- *Milwaukee Business Journal*: [Vos, Fitzgerald want to meet with Evers on regional reopening plan](#)
- *WBAY-TV*: [State meat organization react to Trump's order to keep meatpacking plants open](#)
- *WLUK-TV*: [JBS hasn't said whether Green Bay plant will reopen after executive order](#)
- *Associated Press*: [52 who worked or voted in election have COVID-19](#)

National/International:

- *Milk Business*: [Midwest Dairy donates \\$500,000 to food banks](#)
- *AP*: [Meatpackers welcome Trump order, others question virus risks](#)
- *CNN*: [Meat plant workers to Trump: Employees aren't going to show up](#)
- *FOX News*: [UN warns coronavirus fallout will trigger the next pandemic - global starvation](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. coronavirus outbreak soon to be deadlier than any flu since 1967 as deaths top 60,000](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Economists agree: No quick rebound from recession is likely](#)
- *The Hill*: [SBA stumbles with second round of emergency loans](#)
- *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)

Visit 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 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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