



# WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

## Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: August 27, 2020

*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.*

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### **CDC Proposes Plan for Vaccine Distribution; Prioritizes Essential Food Processing Workers**

On Wednesday, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) unveiled preliminary guidelines for the distribution of a coronavirus vaccine](#), once one is approved for public use.

The CDC plan prioritizes health care workers, essential personnel - including those who work in agriculture and food processing, and those most vulnerable to severe complications, such as the elderly and people with underlying health conditions.

There are currently no approved vaccines for the virus. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has stated he expects the country will initially have a limited supply of vaccine doses, not widely available until "several months" into 2021.

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### **USDA Announces Initial Agreements for Farmers to Families Food Box Third Round**

On Wednesday, [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) officials began issuing agreements](#) for the upcoming third round of the [Farmers to Families Food Box](#) program.

USDA will continue to review bids and announce new Basic Ordering Agreements (BOA) through September 31. Agency officials say they are using BOAs in the third round of the food box program so that they have "greater flexibility to ensure contracted entities provide adequate coverage." BOAs establish terms for a contract, but do not authorize company shipments or guarantee future work.

Earlier in the week, President Donald [Trump announced he was directing an](#)

[additional \\$1 billion](#) from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to the food box program, and extending delivery dates beyond October 31.

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## CDC Updates Guidance on Asymptomatic Testing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reversed course on its [guidance related to the testing of close contacts](#) of those who've tested positive for COVID-19.

The CDC's [updated guidance](#) now states, "If you have been in close contact (within 6 feet) of a person with a COVID-19 infection for at least 15 minutes but do not have symptoms, you do not necessarily need a test unless you are a vulnerable individual or your health care provider or state or local public health officials recommend you take one."

For more on this development, see associated news coverage, linked below.

- *FOX News*: [CDC changes coronavirus testing guidance; asymptomatic people no longer require test](#)
  - *CNN*: [Updated CDC guidelines now say people exposed to coronavirus may not need to be tested](#)
  - *MarketWatch*: [Health experts express alarm at CDC change in testing guidelines that exclude asymptomatic patients](#)
  - *New York Times*: [Top U.S. officials told CDC to soften coronavirus testing guidelines](#)
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## Lawsuit Filed to Strike Down Wisconsin's Health Emergency, Mask Mandate

Private citizens from St. Croix and Polk Counties, represented by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, this week filed a lawsuit challenging Governor Tony Evers' authority to mandate the use of face masks. Evers' order took effect on August 1 and is set to run through September 28.

Wisconsin is one of 34 states with mask mandates. Similar orders in Michigan and Minnesota also face legal challenges.

WCMA will keep members informed of relevant developments. For more on the filing, see associated news coverage, linked below.

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Conservatives sue to knock down Evers' health emergency, mask mandate](#)
  - *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Conservative group files lawsuit that would strike down Wisconsin's mask mandate](#)
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## Coronavirus Headline News

### Dairy Industry

- *ABC News*: [Stabenow urges USDA to extend food program waivers](#)
- *Brownfield Ag News*: [Wisconsin bankers see fewer farm loans, lots of PPP in second quarter](#)

## Wisconsin

- *Appleton Post Crescent*: [Wisconsin adds 768 new coronavirus cases Wednesday, six more deaths](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Parents, private schools ask state Supreme Court to toss order limiting in-person school](#)
- *WISC-TV*: [Lawsuit filed against head of PHMDC over emergency order requiring virtual start to school year](#)
- *Marshfield News Herald*: [Wisconsin officials won't be naming schools that have COVID-19 outbreaks, or say how big they are](#)
- *WGBA-TV*: [Survey: Wisconsin businesses say school plans impact workforce](#)

## National/International

- *CNBC*: [Here's why coronavirus cases are down across most of the U.S.](#)
- *CNN*: [While nationwide surge may be slowing, officials warn of troubling COVID-19 signs in the U.S. heartland](#)
- *WHO-TV*: [Horrorifying data glitch skews key Iowa coronavirus metrics](#)
- *USA Today*: [More temporary layoffs could become permanent, prolonging recovery from COVID-19 slump](#)

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## 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.

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## 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](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
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