



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: December 17, 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.

FDA Panel Expected to Approve Moderna Vaccine Today, With 5.9M Doses Ready for Delivery

A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel is [expected to approve](#) pharmaceutical company Moderna's request for emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine this afternoon, following its [positive review](#) of the vaccine's safety and efficacy earlier this week.

Moderna's vaccine is easier to distribute than Pfizer's, which was approved last week and rolled out nationwide on Monday, because it does not need to be kept at sub-zero temperatures. Moderna's vaccine can be stored for up to 30 days in a regular refrigerator.

Operation Warp Speed officials say they have [5.9 million doses](#) of the Moderna vaccine prepared for delivery next week. Two doses of the Moderna vaccine, spaced 28 days apart, are required for efficacy. Pfizer's vaccine also requires two doses, though they are to be delivered 21 days apart.

Wisconsin Launching New Contact Tracing App

Wisconsin officials today announced they are launching [WI Exposure Notification](#), a new mobile app to assist in the notification of close contacts of COVID-19 positive individuals, on December 23. The free app is available for download now in the Google Play store, while iPhone users can turn the app on in their phone's settings. Wisconsinites will receive a push notification within days of the system's activation offering additional details.

Congress "Close" to Relief Package Agreement

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) called agreement over a \$908 billion coronavirus relief package "[close at hand](#)" today, but warned bill terms may not be finalized until the weekend.

The package is expected to include approximately \$330 billion in small business loans, including \$257 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, as well as a \$300-per-week unemployment enhancer due to last through March, and a [one-time stimulus check](#) of approximately \$600 for millions of Americans. It also includes [\\$26 billion for agriculture](#), including additional support for direct aid payments to farmers and nutrition programs.

The two most contentious items legislative leaders have discussed in recent days, funding for state and local governments and a liability shield for businesses, have been left out of the package.

WEDC Shares Social Media Tool to Help Consumers Show Business Support Amid Pandemic

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation officials today shared a new social media tool, designed to help consumers promote their favorite local businesses. The ["We're All In" shout-out generator](#) offers graphics and memes for individual users to customize and post to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Culture:* [The cheese industry looks back on its pandemic year](#)

Wisconsin

- *WSAW-TV:* [Coronavirus in Wisconsin: Testing down, death rate up](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:* [State health secretary says full hospitals may have prompted some residents to change behavior, leading to decline in COVID-19 cases](#)
- *WKOW-TV:* [Despite vaccine rollout, return to 'normal' still many months away](#)

National/International

- *Reuters:* [U.S. vaccine campaign grows as COVID-19 kills 3,000-plus Americans daily](#)
 - *CNN:* [California adds over 40,000 new coronavirus cases in a single day as Americans await vaccine rollout](#)
 - *FOX News:* [Number of Americans filing for unemployment aid hits highest level since September](#)
 - *Yahoo! Finance:* [Coronavirus surge dampening U.S. business activity](#)
 - *CNBC:* [Fauci says U.S. could return to normal by mid-fall if most people are vaccinated](#)
-

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,

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