



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: December 3, 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.

WCMA Prepares Letter to Federal Officials Urging Preservation of Dairy Industry Access to Dry Ice

As the United States prepares for the chilled distribution of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, the demand for dry ice has significantly increased, threatening a [necessary supply of 350,000 pounds](#) of dry ice for the production, distribution and storage of dairy cultures used in members' cheese and cultured dairy products.

WCMA is advocating for the dairy industry's access to dry ice, and members are now invited to [join in that effort](#). Please sign on to [WCMA's letter](#) to the Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by tomorrow (Friday, December 2) at 12 noon CST.

SIGN THE LETTER

Register Now for WCMA, WDATCP Webinar

Register now to join a [free COVID-19 webinar](#) on Thursday, December 10 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. focused on the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (WDATCP) new COVID-19 protocols. This program is available exclusively to members of the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association.

WDATCP's Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses, Division of Food and Recreational Safety Manager Tim Anderson will present alongside WCMA staff, detailing new pandemic inspection practices, plans to continue timing and sealing services, and inspection debit flexibility secured from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration.

WCMA will reserve time at the end of the webinar for WDATCP staff to respond to

member questions. WCMA will present pre-submitted questions from members anonymously; simply send them by Tuesday, December 8 to [WCMA staff](#).

Wisconsin Offering COVID-19 Data by Community

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services added [maps and downloadable tables](#) to its website Wednesday, offering COVID-19 data by zip code, municipality, and school district. The mapped metrics present seven-day averages of new case rates, as well as cumulative case counts and rates. They will be updated daily.

Evers Directing \$45M to Wisconsin Restaurants

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers today announced he is [directing \\$45 million](#) in federal assistance to nearly 2,000 restaurants that have suffered pandemic losses. The new program, "We're All In for Restaurants," will target businesses with annual revenues of more than \$1 million and less than \$7 million, as previous programs have focused on businesses with smaller annual revenues.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Wall Street Journal*: [Dry ice demand swells as COVID-19 vaccines prepare for deployment \(Featuring WCMA\)](#)
- *Brownfields Ag Network*: [Dairy leaders not optimistic about rapid new coronavirus relief](#)
- *WDJT-TV*: [Kemps donates 175K shelf-safe milk cartons to Wisconsin food banks](#)

Wisconsin

- *WTMJ-TV*: [Wisconsin remains in the 'red zone' of COVID-19 spread, White House Task Force report finds](#)
- *WTMJ-TV*: Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine reportedly at Pleasant Prairie site pending FDA approval
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin plans to distribute COVID-19 vaccines by mid-December, but health officials say they don't have funding for long-term program](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [As COVID-19 vaccine nears, Wisconsin looks at how to divvy up first doses](#)
- *WFRV-TV*: [UW-Oshkosh survey shows businesses prefer COVID-19 precautions that are easily reversible](#)

National/International

- *NBC News*: [U.S. tops 14 million COVID-19 cases, sets daily record for deaths, cases and hospitalizations](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. pandemic death toll mounts as danger season approaches](#)
- *CNN*: [Hospitals stretched beyond 'reasonable limit' as number of COVID-19 patients reaches 100,000 and reported deaths hit all-time high](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Nurses wanted: Swamped hospitals scramble for pandemic help](#)
- *FOX News*: ['It's time to cancel everything': L.A. mayor issues order requiring](#)

- [all residents to stay home after nearly 6,000 cases reported](#)
 - *Associated Press*: [U.S. jobless claims remain high at 712,000 as virus escalates](#)
 - *Politico*: [Trump to FDA: Why is Europe beating us on vaccine?](#)
 - *New York Times*: [U.K. and U.S. officials spar over 'vaccine nationalism'](#)
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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 ways to salute 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: 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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