



# WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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## Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: February 11, 2021

*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 Advises Fully Vaccinated People Do Not Need to Quarantine Following Close Contact

This morning, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials released [updated quarantine guidance](#), noting that people who have been fully vaccinated against coronavirus will no longer be required to quarantine following a close contact exposure to someone infected with COVID-19, so long as they are asymptomatic and within the three month window following receipt of the last dose in their vaccine series.

Fully-vaccinated individuals are still advised to continue to follow [current guidance](#) to protect themselves and others, including mask-wearing, social distancing, and frequent hand-washing.

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### Pharmacy Program Offering Free Vaccinations

This week, the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#) launched, offering free COVID-19 vaccines nationwide. Locations will initially have limited capacity, but as more doses are expected to become available each week, pharmacies are expected to play a major role in accelerating vaccination efforts.

#### Wisconsin

Wisconsin has selected Walgreens as its program partner, meaning that the federal government will directly ship 17,800 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to 178 Walgreens locations across the state this week. These doses come in addition to the state's weekly allocation.

Wisconsinites aged 65+ may [visit the Walgreens website](#) now to schedule a vaccination appointment. Walgreens will soon launch a call center to assist with appointment scheduling for those who do not have computer or internet access.

Dairy plant workers, in Wisconsin's Phase 1B for vaccinations, are expected to be eligible to participate in this program, and other offerings, on March 1.

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## Register Now for Free WCMA Vaccination Communication and Education Strategies Webinar

Vaccine communication and education strategies are the focus of a free webinar coming Thursday, February 18 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. (CT). Registration is open now at [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org), and available exclusively to WCMA members.

As part of the webinar, M3 Insurance Director of Communications Jeff Christensen will walk through the fundamentals business leaders should consider and apply while talking about organizational decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccines while communicating with employees about their organization's COVID-19 vaccination plan. Wisconsin's Green County Public Health Director RoAnn Warden, RN, BSN, is set to share her knowledge regarding the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. WCMA staff will also present the latest information on Wisconsin's Phase 1B vaccine rollout, which is set to begin March 1.

If you have questions you would like anonymously presented at the end of the webinar, please email them to [WCMA Communications, Education and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](mailto:rebekah.sweeney@wcma.org) by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 15.

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## CDC Offers Mask Strategies for Greater Protection

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Wednesday issued a [new report](#) and [updated guidance](#) Wednesday on masks, reflecting ways Americans can better protect themselves against emerging, more contagious variants of the coronavirus.

CDC officials now recommend people either wear a cloth mask over a disposable surgical mask or improve the fit of a surgical mask by knotting the ear loops and tucking in the sides to form a closer fit. Both of those methods reduced exposure to aerosols by more than 95 percent in a laboratory experiment.

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## Biden Supports Vaccines for All, WDHS Bars Vaccinators from Requiring ID

President Joe Biden has stated that [all people](#) in the U.S. – regardless of their immigration status – can access COVID-19 vaccines. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security also supports vaccine access for undocumented immigrants.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) officials have [clearly stated](#) that vaccinators may not require an individual's proof of residency or state identification to get a vaccine.

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## Wisconsin Budget Committee Advances PPP Fix

Wisconsin's Joint Finance Committee [advanced a bill](#) on Wednesday that would allow Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan recipients to deduct related purchases on their 2020 state taxes.

The bill is now eligible for consideration by both the Assembly and Senate, and votes could come as early as next week. WCMA is advocating for this legislative change as part of a coalition of business leaders and trade associations.

In December, Congress made payments made with PPP funds deductible from federal tax filings.

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## House Committee Advances \$16B in Ag, Food Aid

The U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Agriculture Wednesday evening approved [\\$16 billion in pandemic relief](#) for the food and agriculture industry, as part of their oversight of President Joe Biden's proposed \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 package.

The committee-approved section of the package offers:

- \$3.6 billion for USDA to support disrupted food supply chains
  - an extension of the 15 percent bump in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits through September 30
  - \$500 million for rural hospitals and communities to expand access to vaccines and food aid
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## Coronavirus Headline News

### Wisconsin

- *WLUK-TV*: [New COVID-19 cases continue to drop in Wisconsin](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin lawmakers approve plan to give more federal coronavirus aid to in-person schools](#)

### National/International

- *CBS News*: [Pharmacies now offering COVID-19 vaccines: Here's what you need to know](#)
  - *Washington Post*: [Fauci predicts 'open season' for vaccinations by April](#)
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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.

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## 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](mailto:jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-225-7130

- WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney:  
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