



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: July 30, 2020

WCMA offers member bulletins regarding coronavirus resources on Mondays and Thursdays, and as news warrants. WCMA delivers electronic newsletters with broader content on Tuesdays. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

Wisconsin Governor Evers Issues New Emergency Order, Statewide Mask Mandate

Moments ago, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers issued a [new emergency order](#), requiring all Wisconsinites to wear face masks while indoors, except while in a private residence, through the end of September.

The [order](#) takes effect Saturday, August 1 at 12:01 a.m. It expressly notes that "every individual, age five and older, in Wisconsin shall wear a face covering" if they are "indoors or in an enclosed space." This includes individuals working in dairy processing plants and other manufacturing plants in Wisconsin.

The order offers certain exceptions, including for children under the age of five, those who are eating or drinking, and people with documented breathing issues.

In a [news release](#) announcing the order, Evers noted Wisconsin has experienced significant community spread and a drastic increase in cases of COVID-19 in the past month, with 61 of 72 counties representing 96 percent of the state's population experiencing high COVID-19 activity, as determined by the state's Department of Health Services.

Wisconsin is set to become the 34th state in the nation with a mask requirement. In recent weeks, Evers noted the Wisconsin Supreme Court's rejection of his Safer at Home extension by a vote of 4-3, with conservative Justice Brian Hagedorn siding with two liberal judges. Tomorrow, liberal judge Jill Karosky takes office, shifting the make-up of the court.

For more on this breaking story, see these news articles:

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers issues statewide mask mandate](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Evers issues statewide mask mandate effective Saturday](#)

USDA Shares Solicitation, Webinar for Round Three of Farmers to Families Food Box Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today shared new materials for the third round of its Farmers to Families Food Box program, including [full text of its solicitation](#) and a [recording of an informational webinar](#) held Tuesday afternoon.



WCMA and International Dairy Foods Association have shared with USDA a list of members that expressed interest in supplying dairy products to program vendors in the weeks ahead

In the third round, USDA will purchase only combination boxes of food, containing fresh produce, dairy products, fluid milk, and meat products. Distribution is to occur between September 1 and October 31, 2020.

Questions regarding the program may be directed to [USDA staff](#), or to [WCMA staff](#).

USDA Issues Solicitation for Butter, Yogurt, Pepper Jack, and Cheddar

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a [solicitation for the purchase of butter, yogurt, pepper jack shreds, and cheddar cheese slices](#). Bids are due Wednesday, August 12 and questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

Smith Introduces Dairy Recourse Loan Bill

U.S. Senator Tina [Smith \(D-MN\)](#) this week introduced a stand-alone version of the [dairy recourse loan proposal](#) approved in the House Democrats' HEROES Act in May. If approved, the bill would allow dairy processors, packagers, merchants,

marketers, wholesalers, and distributors to secure credit against their inventory, providing working capital to help them weather pandemic losses. WCMA has joined International Dairy Foods Association in advocating for this proposal.

Ernst Proposes Tax Relief for Essential Workers

U.S. Senator Joni [Ernst \(R-IA\) is calling for consideration](#) of her newly-released [FRNT LINE Act](#), a bill that would suspend federal income taxes for essential workers up to an annual income cap set at the highest level of pay for an enlisted person in the U.S. Armed Forces, and suspend federal payroll taxes for essential workers who earn up to \$50,000 annually.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *The Hill*: [Nearly 30 million Americans reported not having enough food last week](#)
- *Merced GW News*: [Outbreaks reported at Merced Razzari Ford and Hilmar Cheese](#)

Wisconsin

- *Appleton Post Crescent*: [Barron County reports COVID-19 outbreak at food processing plant; 150 new cases in last two weeks](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Rural Northwoods county has Wisconsin's highest active COVID-19 infection rate](#)
- *WKOW-TV*: [5.9 percent of Wisconsin COVID-19 tests return positive, five more dead](#)
- *Chicago Tribune*: [Chicago threatens fines for those who don't self-quarantine upon return from Wisconsin](#)

National/International

- *Reuters*: [U.S. records a coronavirus death every minute as total surpasses 150,000](#)
 - *CNN*: [Coronavirus slammed the U.S. Northeast and then the South and West. Now it's the heartland's turn](#)
 - *FOX News*: [Ohio sees peak in coronavirus hospitalizations, bans hydroxychloroquine](#)
 - *The Hill*: [Birx says state and local leaders should issue mask mandates as cases rise](#)
 - *Associated Press*: [Bleak economic data point to struggles ahead for U.S. economy](#)
 - *Reuters*: [U.S. economy likely suffered historic plunge in second quarter; outlook murky as COVID-19 cases surge](#)
 - *BBC News*: [Trump suggests delay to 2020 U.S. presidential election](#)
 - *FOX Business*: [Trump hints second stimulus check could be 'way bigger' than \\$1,200](#)
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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](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.

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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