



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: March 25, 2020

WCMA Members:

Continuing as often news and needs warrant, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association will distribute special bulletins alerting you to information and resources related to industry operations and coronavirus (COVID-19). Please be assured your WCMA staff is working to support you through this challenging period. Thank you for your important work.

White House, Congress Reach Deal on \$2 Trillion Economic Stimulus Package

The [White House and Congressional leaders struck a deal](#) early Wednesday morning over an unprecedented \$2 trillion economic stimulus package amid the coronavirus pandemic. The Senate is planning a vote later today, while the House is likely to vote on the bill before the end of the week.

Full details have not yet been released, but Congressional leaders note the deal includes \$500 billion in loans to distressed companies, \$350 billion in small business loans, \$250 billion in unemployment insurance, and \$250 billion in direct payments to individuals and families.

Congressional leaders have provided the greatest detail, thus far, on direct payment plans. Individuals who earn \$75,000 or less annually would get direct payments of \$1,200 each, while married couples earning up to \$150,000 would receive \$2,400, plus \$500 per child. The payments scale down by income, phasing out at \$99,000 for singles and \$198,000 for couples without children.

WCMA staff will provide additional analysis on business aids and elements of the bill specific to the dairy processing community tomorrow.

Please also see these news articles for additional information today.

- [CNN: White House, Senate reach historic \\$2 trillion stimulus deal](#)
- [New York Times: 5 key things in the \\$2 trillion stimulus package](#)
- [The Hill: White House, Senate reach deal on \\$2 trillion stimulus package](#)
- [Reuters: Unprecedented \\$2 trillion U.S. coronavirus stimulus bill poised for Senate vote](#)

Self-Certification Letters for Wisconsin Businesses

Earlier this week, WCMA shared this [form crafted by partners at IDFA](#) for the self-certification of "critical essential" workers in the dairy processing industry. Today, in light of Wisconsin Governor Tony [Evers' "safer at home" order](#), we're also providing these resources for self-certification for Wisconsin-based members:

- [Manufacturer/Processor Self-Certification Letter](#)
- [Supplier Self-Certification Letter](#)

Note that letters are optional, and serve only to assist in the event authorities have questions regarding your business operations. Thanks to the team at Michael Best & Friedrich for their work on this project.

WEDC: Retail Cheese Shops May Remain Open

WCMA has confirmed with Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation leaders that [Evers' "safer at home" order](#) allows the retail cheese stores that many members operate to remain open.

With this noted, cheesemakers may still wish to consider voluntary store closures to limit public access to facilities and the risk of virus transmission.

WDATCP Adopts Modified Bulk Milk Weigher and Samplers Licensing Process

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has suspended non-essential activities. To ensure that new Bulk Milk Weigher and Samplers (BMWS) are able to perform their duties, the agency has adopted a modified licensing process. Details are available now on [WisCheeseMakers.org](#).

WDATCP Secures IMS Extension from FDA

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has obtained an extension from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for Wisconsin BTUs, Grade A plants, and labs due for IMS recertification in the next 60 days.

If you have questions - or if you operate an IMS facility in another state and would like assistance in obtaining an extension - please [contact WCMA staff](#).

U.S. DOT Issues Certain CDL Waivers, Extensions

The U.S. Department of Transportation has [issued guidance](#) in response to the coronavirus emergency, noting extensions of CDL validity and waivers of certain types of certification and testing for CDLs.

More Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin health officials warning: 1,000 deaths, 22,000 illnesses in two weeks if order to stay home not heeded](#)
- *WISN-TV*: [507 patients diagnosed with coronavirus in Wisconsin](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Businesses close, unemployment rises as Evers stay at home order comes with dire warning](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin farmers brace for impact of coronavirus](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Evers considers making spring election mail-only](#)

National/International:

- *CNN*: [U.S. cases top 52K, death toll exceeds 700](#)
- *Reuters*: [WHO says U.S. could become next virus epicenter](#)
- *CNN*: [Coronavirus deaths could reach peak in three weeks, epidemiologist says](#)
- *Politico*: [Trump wants to reopen economy by Easter](#)
- *CNN*: [How to strengthen your immunity to coronavirus](#) (Cheese recommended)
- *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)

Other Coronavirus Resources

WCMA will continue to provide links to both new and essential coronavirus resources for members in these bulletins, but we also want to alert you to a page we've created WisCheeseMakers.org with links to much more. Please visit the page for additional information on employee safety, operations guidance, and federal and state support.

Dairy Food Safety Alliance Resources:

- [Standard operating procedure template addressing COVID-19 positive worker](#)
- [Coronavirus FAQs](#)
- [Employer guidance](#)
- [Printable mental health hotline poster](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Resources:

- [Interim guidance for businesses and employers](#)
- [Printable one-page guidance posters for the prevention of disease spread](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Resources:

- [Coronavirus and food](#)

Wisconsin Orders:

- [Safer at Home](#)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Resources:

- [Coronavirus basics](#)
- [Outbreak tracking](#)

WCMA Key Contacts

WCMA staff is continuously reaching out to dairy manufacturer and processor

member 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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