



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: March 26, 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.

Senate Approves \$2 Trillion Stimulus Package

The U.S. [Senate unanimously approved](#) a historic \$2 trillion economic stimulus package early this morning, after a day of wrangling votes. The U.S. House is set to vote on the bill, dubbed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Friday morning.

Here's a look at some of the bill's key provisions for WCMA members.

General Business Aids

- Employers would be able to delay the payment of their 2020 payroll taxes until 2021 and 2022.
- The bill also allows businesses to carry back losses from 2018, 2019, and 2020 to the previous five years, providing access to immediate tax refunds.
- Employers of all sizes that suffer economic hardship due to coronavirus but continue to pay employees that are furloughed may be eligible for a 50 percent credit on up to \$10,000 of wages paid to those employees.
- The bill would provide eight weeks of cash-flow assistance through 100 percent federally-guaranteed loans to small employers who maintain their payroll during this emergency. If the employer maintains payroll, the portion of the loans used for covered payroll costs, interest on mortgage obligations, rent, and utilities would be forgiven. This proposal is retroactive to February 15, to help bring workers who may have already been laid off back onto payrolls. SBA is required to enact this benefit within 15 days of the bill is signed into law.
- For six months, the Small Business Administration is required to pay all principal, interest, and fees on all existing SBA loan products including 7(a), Community Advantage, 504, and Microloan programs.

Direct Aid to Individuals/Unemployment Benefits

- Americans will be eligible for a one-time tax rebate check of \$1,200 per individual and \$500 per child for those with a valid SSN. There are no earned income or tax liability requirements to receive these rebate checks. The full rebate amount is available for those with incomes at or below \$75,000 for individuals, \$112,500 for head of household, and \$150,000 for married couples. The payments scale down by income, phasing out at \$99,000 for singles and \$198,000 for couples without children.
- The bill makes unemployment benefits more generous by adding a \$600/week across-the-board payment increase through the end of July. In addition, the bill provides an additional 13 weeks of benefits beyond what states typically allow.

Industry-Specific Measures

- The bill allocates a total of \$50 billion in funding to USDA, much of which is earmarked for farm relief programs. There is an allocation of \$450 million to the Commodity Assistance Program, and more details on this will follow.

WCMA will continue to provide updates on bill provisions in the days ahead. If you have questions, [please contact WCMA staff](#).

You may also be interested to read these news articles on the CARES Act.

- *CNN*: [Senate approves relief package amid growing coronavirus fears](#)
- *Washington Post*: [Senate approves \\$2 trillion bill to blunt coronavirus economic impact](#)
- *New York Times*: [FAQ on coronavirus bill](#)
- *NPR*: [Senate passes coronavirus relief package](#)

Department of Labor Issues Guidance, Provides Poster for Expanded FMLA Benefits

The U.S. Department of Labor has issued clear guidance for both employers and employees, related to significantly expanded Family and Medical Leave Act benefits provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which was signed into law earlier this week.

Please [see this poster for a summary of benefits](#). Posting it with your employee notices should satisfy employer obligations under the law to notify employees of these new provisions.

Loan Application Assistance Available in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Small Business Development Network and its partners are helping small businesses apply now for low-interest federal disaster loans to mitigate the substantial economic injury as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. To learn more about this support, [visit this website](#).

Walz Issues Shelter in Place Order for Minnesota

Minnesota Governor Tim [Walz issued a shelter in place order](#) to take effect Friday through at least April 10.

Elected officials in [21 American states](#) have now issued shelter in place or safer at home orders, impacting 196 million people in the United States.

Do You Deliver? Let WCMA Help Promote It!

Are you selling your cheese or other dairy products for home delivery? Running any special promotions? Let WCMA help share that news to consumers on our social media pages and website! Simply [send a note to WCMA staff](#) if you'd like us to share how consumers can purchase your product from home.

Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *WITI-TV*: [638 confirmed coronavirus cases in Wisconsin](#)
- *WISC-TV*: [Medical examiner confirms eighth coronavirus death in Wisconsin](#)
- *WISC-TV*: [Evers: You don't need a permit or letter to be out of your home](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin is \(mostly\) staying home](#)

National/International:

- *CNN*: [U.S. sees deadliest day yet](#)
 - *The Hill*: [Fauci says U.S. needs to be prepared for coronavirus to be cyclical](#)
 - *FOX News*: [Coronavirus will worsen over next month if restrictions ease, Pentagon doctor says](#)
 - *Associated Press*: [U.S. jobless claims soar to a record 3.3 million](#)
 - *CNBC*: [Stocks jump a third straight day, despite jobless claims](#)
 - *Wall Street Journal*: [Trump says parts of U.S. could go back to work in a few weeks](#)
 - *CNN*: [Amazon warehouses getting hit with coronavirus cases](#)
 - *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)
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Other 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](#)
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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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