



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

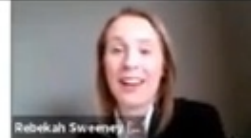
Bulletin Distributed: October 1, 2020

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 Shares Webinar on New COVID-19 Employer Guidance and Free COVID-19 Consultations

WCMA today held a free [COVID-19 webinar](#) this afternoon, providing a preview of a new operations guidance for Wisconsin employers on mitigating the risk of viral transmission, and a new, free service offering confidential COVID-19 consultations by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

WCMA is now pleased to share a recorded version of the webinar with all members.



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Webinar [slides with linked resources](#) are also available now at

WisCheeseMakers.org. In addition, WCMA has posted the [application form](#) for free, confidential COVID-19 workplace consultations.

Our sincere thanks go to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene for their partnership in making this information available to WCMA members.

Lawsuit Filed to Prevent Release of List of COVID-19 Business Outbreaks in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, together with the Muskego and New Berlin Area Chambers of Commerce, today [filed a lawsuit](#) to stop the release of a list of businesses that experienced COVID-19 outbreaks between March and the start of July, arguing that records are protected by patient confidentiality laws and that disclosure will irreparably harm businesses.

Governor Tony Evers had alerted WCMA of his administration's intent to release on Friday the list, following months of talks between the Department of Health Services and an attorney for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, one of the news outlets which requested information under the state's open records law.

The Evers Administration has noted that approximately 1,000 businesses are included in the list. WCMA staff has contacted all affected members directly.

WCMA staff has prepared a [fact sheet](#) on the dairy processing industry's response to the coronavirus pandemic, which is available to all members as a general resource. WCMA staff is also available to help with the development of a tailored statement or news release for your business, if needed. Contact [Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#) for assistance.

WCMA will continue to inform members of developments. For more now, see the news articles linked below.

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Business lobby sues to stop state health department from releasing names of businesses with COVID-19 cases](#)
- *Kenosha News*: [WMC files lawsuit seeking to block state's plans to release information on businesses where multiple COVID-19 cases have occurred](#)
- *Wausau Pilot and Review*: [Lawsuit opposes Wisconsin plan to release names of COVID-19-affected businesses](#)

USDA Awards Mozzarella Contracts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced it has [awarded contracts](#) for the delivery of 82 million pounds of mozzarella in 2021 to WCMA members Dairy Farmers of America and Saputo Cheese USA, as well as Leprino Foods and Miceli Dairy Products.

A list of open USDA solicitations and information on how to become a USDA-approved vendor is [available online](#).

USDA Announces Delivery of 100M Food Boxes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) this week announced it has invoiced [100.7 million food boxes](#), as part of its Farmers to Families Food Box program. The boxes, which include dairy products, will continue to be delivered through 2020.

USDA officials released this video, highlighting the positive difference the food box program has made for food-insecure American households.



Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Lancaster Online*: [Uncertainty remains on dairy farms already hurt financially by COVID-19](#)
- *Bismarck Tribune*: [North Dakota awards perishable food grants](#)

Wisconsin

- *WISC-TV*: [20 additional deaths as Wisconsin surpasses 125,000 cases of coronavirus](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin suffers record number of 27 coronavirus deaths and more hospitalizations than ever before as spike continues](#)
- *The Hill*: [Wisconsin records highest single-day number of new COVID-19 cases](#)
- *CNN*: [Wisconsin reports record number of hospitalizations after White House task force warns of 'rapid worsening'](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [DHS, central Wisconsin health officials urge cancelling all non-essential activities as COVID-19 surge continues](#)

National/International

- *Newsweek*: [Coronavirus is spreading quickly in 31 of 50 U.S. states, data shows](#)
 - *WMAQ-TV*: [CDC releases guidelines for Thanksgiving, says gatherings should be 'small'](#)
 - *Washington Post*: [Moderna's vaccine won't be ready for the public until spring, CEO says](#)
 - *Philadelphia Inquirer*: [U.S. layoffs remain elevated as 837,000 sought unemployment aid last week](#)
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Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.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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