



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: March 20, 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.

Dairy Food Safety Alliance Offers Industry Guidance, SOP for COVID-19 Case on Premise

Leaders of the Dairy Food Safety Alliance, including Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and Center for Dairy Research, have completed documents providing resources to industry on the following points:

- [Standard Operating Procedure Template Addressing COVID-19 Positive Worker](#)
- [Coronavirus FAQs](#)
- [Employer Guidance](#)
- [Mental Health Hotline Poster](#)

Please [let us know](#) if you need assistance adjusting the SOP for use in your plant, or if you have questions about any of these materials.

WCMA Advocates for Baldwin's \$1 Billion Aid Package for Agriculture and Food Processing

WCMA is actively advocating in favor of a [\\$1 billion proposal authored by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin](#), specifically designed to support agriculture and food processors as they navigate coronavirus challenges. See more on the proposal here, and find [WCMA's letter to Congress here](#).

Note that more business relief measures are also in the works; Senate Majority Leader Mitch [McConnell has set a midnight \(Friday\) deadline](#) for negotiators to

WDATCP Suspends Non-Essential Operations

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) has announced a suspension of all in-state travel and non-essential activities. WDATCP is defining essential operations as the following:

- Dairy plant pasteurizer timing and sealing, and broken seal follow-ups
- Emergency response activities involving interactions with licensed establishments, including sampling
- High-level complaint response activities that require immediate on-site interactions with licensed establishments
- Emergency licensing inspection activities necessary to maintain the food production and distribution infrastructure

DFRS activities may include sanitarians calling or electronically checking with licensed establishments.

WDATCP is working with the Food and Drug Administration's Interstate Milk Shipment program on contingency planning so Wisconsin's dairy industry can continue to ship Grade A products outside of the state.

Homeland Security Deems Dairy Processors Critical, Essential Workers

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released guidance on the "essential, critical infrastructure workforce" during the coronavirus pandemic, noting [dairy manufacturers and processors on the list](#). This means workers in the field are exempt of many ordered limitations, and advised they have "a special responsibility to maintain their normal work schedules."

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *WBAY-TV*: [Three deaths, 206 confirmed cases in Wisconsin](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [Evers says more deaths to come from coronavirus in Wisconsin](#)
- *WISC-TV*: [300 National Guard troops prepare to be deployed to help with COVID-19 outbreak](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [More than 29,400 file for unemployment in Wisconsin this week as coronavirus spreads](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin manufacturers increase production to keep up with coronavirus demand](#)
- *Spectrum News*: [Coronavirus hurts agriculture markets](#)

National/International:

- *Associated Press*: [10,000 die globally in coronavirus pandemic](#)
- *CBS News*: [President Trump invokes Defense Production Act to speed medical supply production](#)
- *NBC News*: [Tax Day postponed until July 15](#)

- *National Public Radio*: [U.S. orders up to a yearlong break on mortgage payments](#)
 - *CNN*: [Panic buying: How grocery stores are restocking shelves](#)
 - *CNN*: [Are food deliveries and groceries safe during coronavirus pandemic? Yes, experts say.](#)
 - *U.S. News and World Report*: [Minnesota grocery store employees could gain child care benefits](#)
 - *NBC News*: [Fauci predicts Americans will likely need to stay home for at least several more weeks](#)
 - *Chicago Tribune*: [Pritzker orders Illinois residents to "shelter in place" beginning Saturday](#)
 - *CNN*: [Cuomo mandates all non-essential New York workers to stay home](#)
 - *Los Angeles Times*: [Newsom orders all Californians to stay home](#)
 - *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)
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WCMA Key Contacts

WCMA staff is reaching out to each dairy manufacturer and processor member over the next few days to identify ways we can be of service to you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time. Here are the best 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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Other Coronavirus Resources

WCMA will continue to provide links to both new and essential coronavirus resources for members in our special bulletins (see below), but we also want to alert you to a [new webpage we've launched on WisCheeseMakers.org](#) with links to much more. Please visit the page for additional information on employee safety, operations guidance, and federal and state support.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Printable one-page guidance posters for the prevention of disease spread](#)
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Interim guidance for businesses and employers](#)
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture: [Coronavirus and food](#)
 - Wisconsin Department of Health Services: [Coronavirus basics](#)
 - Wisconsin Department of Health Services: [Outbreak tracking](#)
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