



# WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

## CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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*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.*

### Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Site to Launch March 1

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) **announced today** it is launching a **central registry** for COVID-19 vaccinations March 1, the same day Phase 1B vaccinations are expected to begin. Wisconsin's Phase 1B group includes dairy processing workers.

The online Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registry will be paired with a call center, and is designed to alert Wisconsinites as to where and when they can be immunized and to help them schedule an appointment.

WCMA will alert members to a registry link when the site goes live.

### Evers Signs PPP Fix, Following Bipartisan Passage

Today, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers signed a **WCMA-backed bill** into law, ensuring companies that received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans aren't taxed at the state level on the expenses they covered with loan dollars. Passage in the Assembly and Senate late Tuesday was bipartisan.

WCMA proudly advocates for member interests, and applauds the enactment of this legislation, which is expected to save Wisconsin business owners \$419 million through the end of the next budget.

### State-by-State Dairy Processing Workers'

# Vaccination Eligibility Status Report

WCMA is introducing a new, weekly resource for members to track vaccination eligibility for critical and essential employees, state-by-state. In each Thursday COVID-19 bulletin, WCMA will now provide vaccination status reports for states in which the bulk of members operate, as well as news clips noting progress in other states.

## California

- Only one top dairy county in **California**, Tulare, has begun vaccination of food and agriculture workers, including dairy plant personnel. Tulare is home to dairy plants operated by Kraft, Land O' Lakes, Nestle, Saputo Cheese USA, and Milk Specialties Global.
- Another key eight counties – Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus – have food and agriculture workers slated in the next tier, with vaccinations for individuals 65 and older, health care workers, teachers and emergency services still in progress.

## Illinois

- **Illinois** is currently vaccinating health care workers and residents and personal in long-term care facilities.
- Illinois plans to open vaccination access to non-health care essential workers, including dairy processing personnel, on February 25.

## Iowa

- **Iowa** is currently focused on vaccinating those aged 65 or older, police, fire, and emergency personnel, and educators, as well as any as-yet unvaccinated health care workers and long-term care residents and personnel.
- Essential workers, including dairy plant personnel, are currently eligible to receive a vaccine but are not being prioritized for appointments.

## Minnesota

- **Minnesota** is currently vaccinating those aged 65 or older, educators, health care workers, and long-term care residents and staff.
- Officials have not yet announced when essential workers in dairy processing may be vaccinated.

## Ohio

- **Ohio** is currently vaccinating front-line health care workers, residents of long-term care facilities, those with pre-existing medical conditions, and older Ohioans. The next group scheduled for vaccination eligibility is educators.
- The state has not yet issued guidance on when essential workers, including dairy processing personnel, will become eligible for vaccination.

## South Dakota

- On February 22, **South Dakota** will begin vaccinating members of its Phase D group, including those aged 65 or older and those with high-risk medical conditions.
- Essential workers, including dairy processing employees, are in the state's Phase E group, though a date has not yet been set for this group's access.

## Wisconsin

- [Wisconsin](#) is currently vaccinating members of the state's Phase 1A group, including health care professionals, long-term care residents, emergency services personnel, and those aged 65 or older.
- Vaccination of the Phase 1B group, including dairy processing workers, is set to begin March 1.

## Other States

Please see these news clips for relevant updates on vaccination eligibility in other key dairy states.

- *The River*: [Essential, invisible, ineligible: New York food and farm workers wait for vaccine](#)
  - *Detroit Eater*: [Michigan food processing and agricultural workers are next in line for the COVID-19 vaccine](#)
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## Coronavirus Headline News

### Wisconsin

- *Associated Press*: [Wisconsin GOP adds virus provision to unemployment measure](#)
- *Capital Times*: [More deadly, faster spreading COVID-19 variant 'out of the gate' in Wisconsin](#)

### National/International

- *KHAK-AM*: [Iowa bill banning employer vaccination mandates advances](#)
  - *New York Times*: [Harris says women leaving the work force because of the pandemic is a 'national emergency.'](#)
  - *Washington Post*: [Pfizer, Moderna vaccines have reduced effectiveness against South African variant, studies show](#)
  - *CNN*: [House Democrats plan to push Biden's COVID relief plan through the chamber next week](#)
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## Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) for More Resources

WCMA's coronavirus resources page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) is updated daily, featuring information on employee safety, regulatory flexibility, operations guidance, federal and state support, and salutes to your critical, essential staff.

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## WCMA Key Contacts

Members with pandemic-related questions or concerns should feel encouraged to contact WCMA staff at any time. Here are ways to get in touch.

- WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer: [jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-225-7130
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