



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Bulletin Distributed: February 25, 2021

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 Lawmakers, Evers Approve COVID-19 Liability Protections, Unemployment Updates

Today, Wisconsin Governor Tony [Evers signed](#) a [WCMA-backed bill](#) into law, providing strong COVID-19 civil liability protections for business owners and laying the groundwork for a modernization of the state's unemployment insurance system. Republican lawmakers [added the liability protections](#) to the initial proposal via an amendment last week.

One-Dose Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Appears Headed for FDA Emergency Approval

A U.S. Food and Drug Administration panel is set to [meet Friday](#) and is expected to approve a COVID-19 vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson for emergency use.

Federal documents released Wednesday indicate the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is delivered via single shot, has [efficacy rates](#) of 72 percent overall in the United States. It has also proven 86 percent effective against the most severe outcomes of COVID-19.

Representatives for Johnson & Johnson say the company can distribute four million doses immediately and [20 million doses](#) by late March.

State-by-State Dairy Processing Workers' Vaccination Eligibility Status Report

In COVID-19 bulletins delivered each Thursday, WCMA provides vaccination eligibility status reports for states in which the bulk of members operate, as well as news clips noting progress in other states.

California

- Two **California** counties - Fresno and Tulare - have begun broad vaccination of food and agriculture workers, including dairy plant personnel.
- Stanislaus County is allowing food and agricultural workers aged 50 and older to be vaccinated, with broader access to follow.
- Another key six counties – Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin – have food and agriculture workers slated in the next tier, but no vaccination start date has been announced.

Illinois

- **Illinois** opened vaccination access to non-health care essential workers, including dairy processing personnel, today.
- A list of vaccination sites is **available online**, along with details regarding required identification.

Iowa

- Essential workers, including dairy plant personnel, in **Iowa** are currently eligible to receive a vaccine but are not yet being prioritized for appointments.
- Vaccine provider information is **available online**.

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** has not yet issued guidance on when essential workers, including dairy processing personnel, will become eligible for vaccination.
- The state is currently vaccinating front-line health care workers, residents of long-term care facilities, those with pre-existing medical conditions, and older Ohioans..
- A comprehensive list of vaccinators in Ohio is now **available online**.

South Dakota

- On February 22, **South Dakota** began 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

- Vaccination of **Wisconsin's Phase 1B group**, including dairy processing workers, is set to begin March 1.
- Vaccinators have been instructed to continue to prioritize appointments for those in the Phase 1A group, including individuals aged 65 and older.
- Wisconsin will launch a **COVID-19 vaccine registry** on March 1 to assist

people in making appointments online or by phone.

Other States

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

- *Auburn Pub:* [Farmworkers, food processing plant employees await COVID-19 vaccine](#) (New York)
 - *KWCH-TV:* [Critical workers in food-supply industry still waiting on chance to get vaccine](#) (Kansas)
 - *WHSV-TV:* [Food processing plant workers wait their turn for the vaccine](#) (Pennsylvania)
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CDC Adds New Posters to Essential Employer Vaccine Communications Toolkit



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week continues to add [new tools](#) for essential employers, with more printable posters shared today.

Resources include:

- information about employer mandates and exceptions
 - a COVID-19 vaccines fact sheet
 - printable posters
 - sample letter to employees
 - sample newsletter content
 - social media posts
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Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:* [South central, western regions of Wisconsin have highest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the state](#)
- *Associated Press:* [Wisconsin to open more vaccination clinics, supply increases](#)

National/International

- *USA Today:* [Where Biden's COVID-19 plan, including stimulus checks, stands in Congress; House to vote Friday](#)
 - *Reuters:* [In boost for COVID-19 battle, Pfizer vaccine found 94 percent effective in real world](#)
 - *Today Show:* [Expect COVID-19 booster shots to be annual](#)
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Visit WisCheeseMakers.org for More Resources

WCMA's coronavirus resources page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](#) is updated daily, featuring information on employee safety, regulatory flexibility, operations

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:
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