



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.

CDC Issues New Workplace COVID-19 Guidance

This week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued updated [COVID-19 guidance for employers](#).

Mandatory Vaccination Programs

In line with recent [guidance from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#), the CDC guidance acknowledges mandatory vaccination as permissible under federal law, provided employers offer medical and religious exemptions.

Reopening Workplaces

The CDC guidance also notes widespread vaccination of the workforce as a key factor for employers to consider as they decide when to fully reopen a workplace. The CDC also advises employers to continue to have staff wear masks, practice social distancing and good hand washing, and stay home from the workplace when they are sick, even after vaccination has occurred.



Employer Toolkit

The CDC continues to encourage essential employers to make use of its [communications toolkit](#).

Resources include:

- a COVID-19 vaccines fact sheet
- printable posters
- a sample letter/newsletter content
- social media posts

Wisconsin Supporting On-Site Vaccination Clinics

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) this week opened a process for vaccinators to request a dedicated vaccine supply for employer-based closed clinics.

Wisconsin-based employers interested in hosting an on-site clinic must reach out to potential vaccinators to coordinate the request in partnership with them. A list of vaccinators is [available here](#), and your [county public health officials](#) can also help connect you.

If you require additional assistance, [WCMA staff](#) is here for you.

Other Vaccination Opportunities

To secure a vaccination appointment, individuals may also contact their health provider or:

- Use the [Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registry](#). If no appointments are currently available, individuals are placed on a wait-list.
- Call Wisconsin's toll-free vaccination hotline at 844-684-1064. Call center representatives can schedule appointments and answer questions about COVID-19 vaccination.
- Schedule an appointment at the Federal Emergency Management Agency mass vaccination clinics in [Milwaukee](#) (now open to all eligible in the state). Another FEMA-run clinic will open in Eau Claire on April 8.
- Contact one of Wisconsin's two Federal Retail Pharmacy Partners:
 - Call 1-800-Walgreens or visit www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19.
 - Call Kroger's pharmacy hotline at (866) 211-5320 or visit <https://www.kroger.com/rx/covid-eligibility>.

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

*Note: With key dairy processing states making COVID-19 vaccination broadly available, this will be the **last vaccination eligibility status report**. Future Thursday COVID-19 bulletins will simply offer links to vaccination access and appointment scheduling information.*

California

- Dairy processing personnel in [California](#) are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination now.
- [Access information](#) is available online.

Illinois

- Dairy processing personnel in [Illinois](#) are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination now.
- All residents of Illinois aged 16 and older will be eligible for vaccination [beginning April 12](#).
- A list of vaccination sites is [available online](#), along with details regarding required identification.

Iowa

- Dairy processing personnel in [Iowa](#) are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination now.
- Vaccine provider information is [available online](#).

Minnesota

- Dairy processing personnel in [Minnesota](#) are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination now.
- Appointments and additional information are available through the [Minnesota Vaccine Connector](#).

Ohio

- Ohioans aged 40 and older will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccination beginning tomorrow.
- All Ohioans will be eligible for vaccination beginning March 29.
- To secure a vaccination appointment, individuals may use Ohio's [centralized scheduling website](#).

South Dakota

- [South Dakota](#) officials announced Wednesday that they will begin vaccination of critical infrastructure workers, including dairy processing employees on Monday, March 22.
- Information on ways to secure a vaccination appointment is now [available online](#).

Wisconsin

- Dairy processing personnel in [Wisconsin](#) are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination now.
- Approximately 2 million Wisconsinites with a [broad range medical conditions](#) become eligible for vaccination on March 22.
- All remaining Wisconsinites will become eligible for vaccination on May 1.
- Appointments can be made via the Wisconsin [COVID-19 Vaccine Registry](#), or through a health care provider or pharmacy.

Other States

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

- *U.S. News & World Report*: [Millions more Americans eligible for COVID-19 vaccine](#) (Utah, Michigan)
- *Gothamist*: [80 percent of adults in NY to be eligible for COVID-19 vaccines this week](#) (New York)
- *Yahoo News*: [Vaccination rate remains low as efforts intensify to round up more takers](#) (Tennessee)



WCMA Member Advocates for Additional COVID Relief, Broadband Expansion in Wisconsin

Marieke Penterman, owner of WCMA member company Marieke Gouda, joined Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Secretary/CEO Missy Hughes this week for a [virtual discussion](#) of COVID-19 economic recovery efforts. Penterman advocated for WCMA priorities in Evers' Badger Bounceback agenda, including the Food Security Initiative, which supports the purchase of Wisconsin-made products to provide hunger relief; expanded rural broadband access and affordability; and direct-to-business COVID-19 aids.

Evers is currently weighing the use of \$3.2 billion in federal funding for pandemic relief, and holding listening sessions on the biennial [state budget](#). Evers' proposal includes \$20 million for the Food Security Initiative, [\\$200 million for broadband expansion](#), and \$200 million in small business aid, as well as \$4.2 million for dairy processor grants, export initiatives, and specialty dairy endeavors.

Learn more and engage in advocacy work at the state and federal level; contact [WCMA staff](#) to join our active, effective Policy Committee today.

IRS Postpones Tax Filing Deadline to May 17

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced Wednesday it is [postponing the April 15 tax filing deadline](#) to May 17, in light of ongoing pandemic pressures. Taxpayers may also delay payment of money owed to the IRS until May 17.

The extended deadline applies only to federal income returns and taxes. Not all states follow the same filing deadline as the federal government.

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin

- *Wisconsin Public Radio:* [Wisconsin's new daily COVID-19 cases hovering around 400](#)
- *WBAY-TV:* [Wisconsin sets seven-day average record for COVID-19 vaccinations](#)
- *WGBA-TV:* [Evers visits COVID vaccination site at Lambeau Field](#)

National/International

- *Reuters:* [U.S. Treasury has mailed out 150,000 paper checks, made 90 million direct deposits](#)
 - *Washington Post:* [Fauci warns we're in a 'race between the vaccine and the virus'](#)
 - *Associated Press:* [Virus surge in Europe a cautionary tale for U.S.](#)
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Visit 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.

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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