



# WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

## CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Bulletin Distributed: April 22, 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.*

---

### Biden Announces Tax Credit for Employers Offering Paid Leave for COVID-19 Vaccination

President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced a [tax credit for employers](#) offering vaccine-related paid leave, amid a slight decline in vaccination demand in the past week.

The tax credit, part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Biden signed into law last month, applies to nearly half of all private sector employees. For businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 500 employees, the tax credit will cover paid leave for up to \$511 per day per employee for up to 10 workdays, or 80 work hours, taken between April 1 and Sept. 30, 2021.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released [a fact sheet](#) detailing how employers can claim the paid sick leave credit on their quarterly tax filings.

---

### USDA Extends School Lunch Regulatory Flexibilities

Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an extension of a [broad range of regulatory flexibilities](#) to allow school meal programs and childcare institutions to continue to provide healthy meals, including dairy products, free of charge to children in fall 2021, as the pandemic continues.

---

### Bipartisan Congressional Coalition Introduces More Generous PPP Proposal for Farmers

A bipartisan Congressional coalition, led by U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), Ben Cardin (D-Maryland) and James Lankford (R-Oklahoma), have introduced legislation to [extend more relief](#) to farmers and small businesses. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Flexibility for Farmers, Ranchers, and the Self-Employed Act would change to loan calculations to allow self-employed farmers and ranchers to apply for more generous PPP loans based on their gross income, retroactively.

---

## More Than Half of Wisconsin Adults Now Vaccinated

More than [half of all Wisconsinites](#) aged 16 and older have now received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) reported Wednesday. More than [3.9 million doses](#) have been administered in the state, with Pfizer making up for more than half of those doses.

---

## Final Reminder: Please Complete WCMA Survey on Workforce Vaccination Rates

To provide information to our members and to policymakers, WCMA is compiling data on the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations to dairy processing member employees. We invite you to participate in this [one-minute survey](#), asking for your best estimate of the percentage of your workforce that is or will soon be vaccinated. **Today is our final day of data collection.**

Information collected in this survey will be blinded and aggregated for release. Data from each participating member will be held in strictest confidence.

Please know that WCMA is [available to help](#) with questions you may have regarding vaccine access, and to connect you with vaccinators as desired.

---

## State-by-State Vaccination Access Information

WCMA is pleased to provide links to vaccination scheduling resources in these key dairy processing states:

- [California](#)
- [Idaho](#)
- [Illinois](#)
- [Iowa](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [Minnesota](#)
- [New Mexico](#)
- [New York](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [South Dakota](#)
- [Tennessee](#)
- [Texas](#)
- [Vermont](#)

- [Wisconsin](#)
- 

## Coronavirus Headline News

### Dairy Industry

- *Agri-Pulse*: [Industry readies for implementation of USDA's Dairy Donation Program](#)

### Wisconsin

- *Associated Press*: [Wisconsin schools receiving \\$175 million for COVID-19 tests](#)
- *WKOW-TV*: [Republicans send COVID-19 relief spending controls to governor for likely veto](#)

### National/International

- *Associated Press*: [J&J vaccine 'pause' latest messaging challenge for officials](#)
  - *CNN*: [U.S. jobless claims fell more than expected last week and hit a pandemic low](#)
- 

## 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.

---

## 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
  - WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: [rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-386-3012
-