



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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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.

Federal Officials Signal CDC May Relax Indoor Mask Requirements for Vaccinated People

Federal guidance on wearing face masks indoors - at least for fully vaccinated individuals - may soon change.

In an [interview with ABC News](#) this week, chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said that as the number of people receiving vaccinations increases, the country could relax face mask requirements inside buildings.

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be updating their recommendations and their guidelines," Fauci said. "We do need to start being more liberal as we get more people vaccinated."

The latest [figures from the CDC](#) show that nearly 154 million Americans - 46 percent of the total population, and nearly 60 percent of all adults - have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

[Click Here to Find a Vaccine Appointment Now](#)

Ohio Announces \$5M Vaccination Lottery, While Other States Mull Incentive Programs

Five vaccinated Ohioans will [win \\$1 million each](#) via a new lottery announced by Governor Mike DeWine on Wednesday, marking the largest financial

incentive announced thus far to combat declining demand for COVID-19 vaccines. DeWine noted Ohio will also hold a weekly lottery starting May 26 for those 17 and younger who have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine, with five individuals winning a full, four-year scholarship to a State of Ohio university.

In recent weeks, New York has offered [train tickets](#), Kentucky has offered [lottery tickets](#), New Jersey has offered [beer](#), and Maine has offered [hunting or fishing licenses](#) as incentives to the vaccine-hesitant.

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers on Wednesday signaled he [isn't ruling out](#) financial incentives for COVID-19 vaccination, but has not committed to any offerings.

Evers Affirms Commitment to Small Businesses, Restaurants As Wisconsin Federal COVID-19 Aid Cut

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers on Wednesday affirmed his support for approximately [\\$600 million in grants](#) to small businesses, restaurants and bars, even as federal officials announced the state would receive far less in COVID-19 aid than was originally anticipated.

The U.S. Department of Treasury now says Wisconsin will receive [\\$2.5 billion in two payments](#), staggered 12 months apart, as opposed to the \$3.2 billion lump sum payment initially messaged. The adjustment is a result of Wisconsin's lower unemployment rates, in comparison to other states.

WCMA has urged state officials to direct federal COVID aid to business grants, nutrition programs that support the purchase of Wisconsin-made food products, and the expansion of affordable broadband service.

Some States Move to End Pandemic Jobless Boost

At least [11 states](#) including Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wyoming will soon [decline federal pandemic unemployment](#) benefits, with the states' Republican governors citing the additional \$300 weekly payments as a reason for current workforce shortages.

This week, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce also [sent a letter](#) to Governor Tony Evers urging similar action.

The federal unemployment boosts are set to expire on September 6.

Wisconsin Lawmakers Move to Reinstate Work Search Requirements for Unemployment Aid

Wisconsin Republican lawmakers this week are moving to [reinstate a requirement](#) that jobless individuals must search for work in order to qualify for unemployment benefits. The work search requirement was suspended by the Legislature at the height of the pandemic last year and was to last through

WCMA to Host Vaccine Confidence Webinar May 27



Register now to join in a free WCMA webinar on Thursday, May 27 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. (CT), focused on strategies to build vaccine confidence and participation rates among dairy processing's valued workforce.

This WCMA webinar will feature Elise Balzer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Advisor for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, detailing resources and messages to convey vaccine safety and efficacy, and to combat misinformation.

WCMA will reserve time at the end of the webinar for responses to member questions. To submit questions in advance and remain anonymous, simply send them by 12 noon (CT) on Tuesday, May 25 to **[WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#)**.

Register Now

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Feedstuffs*: **[Restaurant sector still struggling in post-COVID economy](#)**

Wisconsin

- *WKOW-TV*: **[Manufacturers face hiring challenges as pandemic recovery progresses](#)**
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: **[Wisconsin will start giving vaccines to 12- to 15-year-olds Thursday](#)**

National/International

- *Reuters*: **[New U.S. COVID weekly cases fall to lowest since September](#)**
 - *MinnPost*: **[Can Minnesota employers require workers to get a COVID-19 vaccine? Will they?](#)**
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Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) for More Resources

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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- WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org or 608-386-3012