



The [statewide COVID-19 website](#) is a one stop shop that consolidates information from state agencies, and provides up-to-date information and guidance regarding COVID-19. DHS has also offered information on their website on [How and Where to Get Tested](#).

If you're not busy, please make a call, send a card, or write a letter to someone you know who lives alone or may need assistance.

Bless each of you during this difficult time of uncertainty and suffering. Take good care!

[See previous eUpdates](#)

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Every Wisconsinite, 16 and Older, Eligible for Vaccine on April 5th



Great news! Starting Monday, April 5th, everyone in Wisconsin age 16 and older will become eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Wisconsin has been national leader with regard to our vaccine rollout, and this is one more sign that we are continuing in the right direction.

As of March 30th Wisconsin has administered 2.7 million total vaccines, with over 1 million residents being fully vaccinated and over half of our state's 65+ age group fully vaccinated.

Currently our state Department of Health Services is optimistic about plans to reopen state office buildings and have more employees returning to their offices by July.

[Read more.](#)

Governor Evers Signs Bill to Increase Transparency in Rx Drug Supply Chain

On Friday Governor Evers signed [Senate Bill 3](#) into law which will increase transparency in the prescription drug supply chain by creating licensing and practice requirements for pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) in the state of Wisconsin. I was very happy to cosponsor this important legislation.

Critically the bill prohibits gag clauses that prevented pharmacists from informing patients of more affordable alternative options.

[Read more about the PBM law.](#)

So far, 4 of the bills that I have cosponsored this session have been signed by the Governor. The other 3 are:

[Senate Bill 28](#) related to battery by a person detained while awaiting trial as a sexually violent person

[Senate Bill 62](#) related to merit based pay raises for state public defenders

And [Assembly Bill 125](#) related to the regulation of physician assistants and creating a Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds Coming to Communities in the 3rd Senate District

The American Rescue Plan Act, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11th, 2021, provides funds to the various levels of local government: state, county, municipality.

The following are the [Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau's](#) estimated totals for the various units of government contained either in part or in whole within the 3rd State Senate District:

State of Wisconsin: \$3.2 billion

Milwaukee County: \$183.4 million

City of Greenfield: \$3.6 million

City of Milwaukee: \$405.7 million

City of West Allis: \$32.2 million

Village of West Milwaukee: \$404,892

Additional funds will come to our state through specific programs directed towards: Unemployment Insurance; Health and Family Services; Children and Families; K-12 and Higher Education; Transportation; Arts; Business Assistance; Emergency Management; Environmental Grants; Housing Assistance; and Utility Assistance.

Read [more from the Fiscal Bureau](#) about the ARPA.

Many Absentee Ballots are Still Not Yet Returned for the April 6th Election

As of March 26th, 390,000 voters across the state had requested an absentee ballot, but only 96,000 had been returned to their respective clerk.

In keeping with the USPS recommendations for mailing a ballot (one week in each direction) after today, it is no longer recommended for you to use the post to return your absentee ballot, because it may not arrive in time for the election. Instead you should make use of one of the drop-off locations that are available to you in your municipality.

For information about where to do this, I recommend calling your clerk. Their contact information is below.

Also, early voting will continue through Friday April 2nd, see clerk's websites for more info!

[City of Greenfield \(414\) 329-5219](#)

[City of Milwaukee \(414\) 286-3491](#)

[City of West Allis \(414\) 302-8200](#)

[Village of West Milwaukee \(414\) 645-1530 ext. 0](#)

Old Main is Housing Veterans for the First Time in 30 Years

On March 22nd, the Milwaukee Soldiers Home announced that it has leased half of its available units to veterans and their families who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Inside Old Main, 80 one- or two-bedroom apartment units were created through the restoration. These units will provide permanent housing and wraparound support services for veterans and their families.

[Read more.](#)

The Depths of Lake Michigan are Warming

A [new report](#) compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration using data collected hourly over the last 30 years shows the water at the depths of Lake Michigan is warming by about 0.11 degrees Fahrenheit each decade which is faster than ocean and the air temperature.

Although this change may seem small, it impacts the amount of ice cover on the lake each year, and the erosion that occurs along the shoreline, as well as the organisms that live in our great lake.

[Read more.](#)

April is Hmong Heritage Month

Hmong Americans are the largest Asian ethnic group in Wisconsin, and our state is home to the third-largest Hmong population in the US.

The Wisconsin Historical Society Press has a new title, "[Modern Jungles: A Hmong Refugee's Childhood Story of Survival](#)." In which author, Dr. Pao Lor, shares the history of the Hmong diaspora to America through his lived experiences as a young orphan. He will be participating in a [virtual book launch](#) on April 14th, at 7pm.

Brewers Opening Day is April 1st

Stands will be held at 25% capacity to begin the season, but the team's eventual goal is to get back to "full fans in the stands".

Fans will have to wear masks except while eating or drinking, practice social distancing, use cashless payments, and use specific gates at prescribed times for entry.

Personally, I can't wait to get back to see a live baseball game!

[See Brewers president of operation's interview on UPFRONT](#)

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