



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

September 18, 2020



Dear friend,

The official start of fall is just days away. Schools are back in session, and the NFL season kicked off last weekend. However, things are far from “normal”. Covid-19 still looms over every aspect of our lives, as the number of cases in the state surge. Health officials are particularly concerned by the spike, considering cold weather and flu season are just around the corner. As Kenosha continues to heal, Mayor Antaramian launches a series of community meetings and state leaders ask President Trump to keep his promise of financial assistance. Finally, the first absentee ballots have begun to hit mailboxes for the November elections. Have a great week, look out for each other, and stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Bob

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

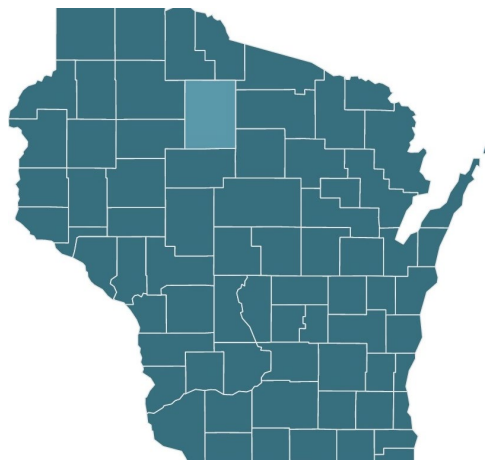
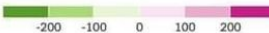
Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper

In Case You Missed It

Where new cases are increasing fastest

	METRO OR MICRO AREA	A WEEK AGO	NOW	CHANGE PER 100K
1	Rio Grande City, Texas	98	298	309
2	La Crosse, Wis.	128	464	246
3	Palestine, Texas	72	207	234
4	Eagle Pass, Texas	77	200	209
5	Cape Girardeau, Mo.	147	329	188
6	Muskegon, Mich.	80	385	176
7	State College, Pa.	192	474	174
8	Whitewater, Wis.	117	288	165
9	Platteville, Wis.	49	126	150
10	Madison, Wis.	686	1,677	149
11	Gainesville, Fla.	409	824	144
12	Bloomington, Ind.	355	559	121
13	Minot, N.D.	89	173	111
14	Lufkin, Texas	28	117	103
15	Green Bay, Wis.	476	792	97.9
16	Eau Claire, Wis.	170	332	95.7
17	Farmington, Mo.	249	308	87.8
18	Warrensburg, Mo.	107	154	86.9
19	Oshkosh-Neenah, Wis.	161	303	82.6
20	Provo-Orem, Utah	839	1,343	77.7
246	New York City area	5,533	5,072	-2.3



Surge in Covid Cases Reaches All Corners of the State

After seeming to plateau for much of August, September has brought record numbers of new cases as K-12 and college and university students return to the classroom. No part of the state is immune from the effects of Covid, as the Department of Health Services lists 71 of Wisconsin's 72 counties as "High" in Covid activity; Forrest and La Crosse Counties currently rank 15 and 16 among counties nationwide in terms of Covid growth rate, and 7 of the 20 cities nationwide with the fastest Covid growth are Wisconsin college towns. Perhaps most disturbing, 88% of UW-Madison students who have



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

tested positive for Covid have experienced symptoms, flying in the face of the notion that young people are mostly asymptomatic. Locally, students and staff have already tested positive at Indian Trail and Bristol School, leading to quarantines and more virtual learning. The Big Ten Conference announced that it is reversing course and will begin the football season in mid-October, concerning health officials in Madison/Dane County over the impact of fans and tailgates on the spread of Covid. With colder temperatures on the way, and people spending more time indoors, we could be in for a long few months. There are still things you can do. Stay home as much as you can; limit your contact with people outside of your household; wear a mask when you must go out or interact; and get a flu shot.



Local Covid Testing Options

While the state Department of Health Services cites “High Covid Activity” in **71 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties**, there are plenty of options locally for anyone looking to get tested. Your primary health care provider is always an option, but there are many community testing sites available, as well.

Advocate Aurora: Drive-thru testing at both the Kenosha and Burlington locations for community members exhibiting at least one symptom of Covid-19; advance registration is required at aah.org/testing or by phone at 877-819-5034

CVS Pharmacy: Drive-through testing available at CVS in Kenosha (3710 57th Ave.) and Racine (3915 Durand Ave.); advance registration required at <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

Froedert South: Drive-through testing is available to those who qualify after completing an initial phone evaluation at (262)671-7777 between 8 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

Kenosha Community Medical Center/Gateway Kenosha Campus: A drive-through testing site is open to those who complete a quick registration process at (262)925-1325

Ascension: Offering testing by appointment, (833)981-0711 or choose.ascension.org/onlinecare

Racine’s Festival Hall: Ending at 6 pm Friday, September 11; anyone five and older can get a test; appointments are not required, but pre-registration at register.covidconnect.wi.gov is encouraged

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

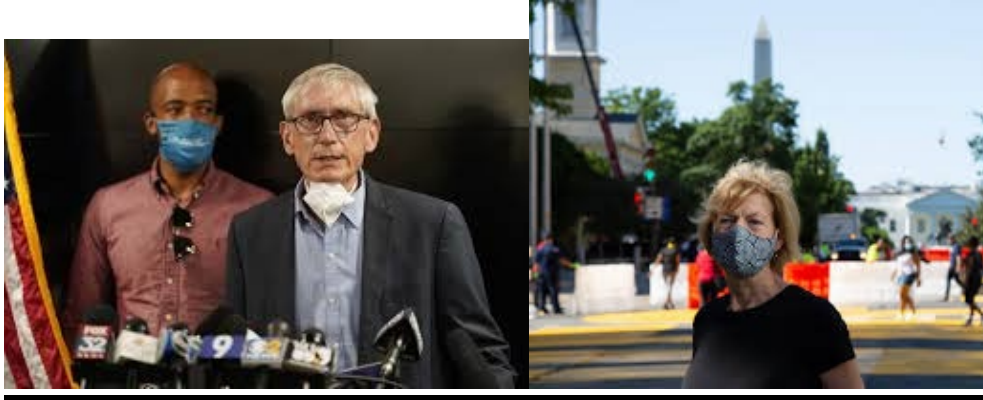
Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper

To find other testing sites in the state, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm>.

There are reports of testing supply shortages impacting other locations throughout the state. It's best to always check ahead of time to make sure you'll be able to get a test.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services has launched a Covid-19 Test Result Hotline for individuals tested at National Guard testing sites. If you've been waiting more than five days for your test results, or if you need a copy of your results, call the Wisconsin Covid-19 Results Line at (866)419-6988 Monday-Friday between 8 am and 6 pm.



Gov. Evers and Sen. Baldwin Call on Trump Administration to Provide Financial Assistance to Kenosha

With Kenosha businesses looking at the best ways to rebuild and move forward following violence and destruction in Uptown, Downtown and other parts of the city, Governor Tony Evers and U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin have asked President Donald Trump to keep a promise he made and provide needed financial assistance. When Trump visited Kenosha earlier this month, he committed to “do a lot for the state” and told local businesses he would help with their recovery and economic development. At that time, Trump announced \$4 million in support to small businesses from the federal government. Upon further inspection, however, the money Trump “offered” had already been allocated to help Kenosha small businesses recover from the impact of Covid-19 through the CARES Act; there was no additional funding. Trump also committed \$41 million to support law enforcement and prosecutors statewide; this, too, was simply a repackaging of grants awards that had already been announced. The letter from Evers and Baldwin calls on Trump to keep his implied promise and provide new financial assistance to rebuild and repair businesses and infrastructure.

A copy of the letter can be found at:

<https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Baldwin%20Evers%20Letter%20to%20President%20Trump-%20Kenosha.pdf>. Further information is available at <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/press-releases/keep-promise-to-deliver-federal-funding-for-kenosha> and https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/evers-and-baldwin-to-trump-kenosha-needs-more-funding/article_9c9f95e1-14df-57a2-a716-4388e3937606.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1.



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



Kenosha Mayor Antaramian Announces Community Meetings on Action Roadmap

In an attempt to begin some difficult conversations and gather citizen input, Mayor John Antaramian has announced a series of community meetings to discuss what is being called “Kenosha’s Commit to Action Roadmap” following the police shooting of Jacob Blake. The meetings will be held the next four Sundays. Due to Covid-19, seating is limited and registration is required to attend in person. At least the first meeting will be livestreamed. You can find more on the meetings, including locations and how to register, at <https://www.kenosha.org/visitors/news/694-community-listening-sessions-schedule>.



Wisconsin Residents in Need of Health Care Coverage Could Qualify for Special Enrollment Period

If you have lost your health insurance this year, you may be eligible to apply for coverage from the federally-facilitated Marketplace at HealthCare.gov courtesy of an extended special enrollment period. This coverage might be more affordable than an extension of your employer-funded health insurance through COBRA. If you have questions about the coverage or need help wading through the various

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper

plans, you can find a Health Care Navigator to assist you at <https://www.coveringwi.org/navigator-collaborative>.



State Health Officials Urge Residents to Get Flu Shots Before Halloween

With the healthcare system already overburdened by the Covid-19 pandemic, the state Department of Health Services is asking Wisconsin residents to get their flu vaccinations as soon as possible this fall, preferably by Halloween. According to Secretary Designee Andrea Palm, “Now more than ever, getting your flu vaccine is one of the most important and proactive steps you can take to protect yourself, the people you love, and people around you. Getting sick from the flu could result in hospitalizations at a time when our frontline health workers are doing all they can to help Covid-19 patients recover.” Those with health insurance should contact their healthcare provider about a flu shot; you can also get one at all Walgreen’s and CVS stores. If you don’t have health insurance, are on Medicaid/BadgerCare, or your health insurance doesn’t cover immunizations, you can get a flu shot through the county health department. In Kenosha, the Kenosha Visiting Nurses Association will be holding a flu shot clinic at Gateway’s Conference Center, 3520 30th Ave. in Kenosha, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am - 2 pm beginning September 28. Call (262)656-8400 or email info@kvna.net for more information.



Nissi's Cake Room Opens Storefront Location in Racine



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

It's always exciting to see an entrepreneur make his or her dreams a reality. With that in mind, I want to congratulate the folks at Nissi's Cake Room, LLC, on the opening of their new location, 3214 Washington Ave. in Racine. They provide cakes, cupcakes, breads and other treats for special occasions or just because. Their cake decorating skills are definitely top-notch. Check them out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cakeroom1>.



State Supreme Court Ruling Opens the Door for Absentee Voting to Begin

With its 4-3 decision finding that the Green Party Presidential candidate had not met the requirements to be placed on the ballot in Wisconsin, the state Supreme Court removed its hold on the mailing of absentee ballots. As a result, people who had a ballot request on file will begin receiving their ballots, if they haven't already. If you want to request an absentee ballot but haven't already done so, you can submit your application at <https://myvotewi.gov>.

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper