



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

September 25, 2020



Dear friend,

Area businesses have gotten a bit of good news, as the WEDC has approved \$4 million in aid funds for rebuilding and repairs following the unrest of a few weeks ago, thanks in large part to the efforts of Governor Evers and Rep. Ohnstad. We'll be living with a mask mandate for a little bit longer, as our Covid situation continues to grow more serious. Two business support organizations are offering guidance on dealing with Covid in your business. 2020 has been quite a year; it's hard to believe we've only got three months left of it. I hope you are all staying safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

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## In Case You Missed It



### ***\$4 Million in State Aid Coming to Kenosha Businesses***

Thanks to the hard work, leadership and advocacy of Governor Evers and Rep. Tod Ohnstad, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has approved a \$4 million no-interest loan program for Kenosha businesses impacted following the shooting of Jacob Blake. KABA will administer the program and negotiate specific details with WEDC. What we know so far is that eligible businesses can receive up to \$50,000 each, and there is the potential that some of the funds will be converted to forgivable loans.

This good news comes as it's been made clear that President Trump made a hollow promise of federal help during his September 1 visit to Kenosha. At that time, Trump announced that damaged Kenosha businesses would receive \$4 million in federal aid; Kenosha law enforcement would be getting \$1 million; and law enforcement agencies and prosecutors statewide would be allocated \$41 million to deal with similar situations. The truth of the matter is that, aside from the \$1 million for Kenosha law enforcement, none of this is new money. The \$4 million promised to local businesses was actually money that had already been awarded through the federal CARES Act to help businesses impacted by Covid and can't be used to repair damage from protests. The \$41 million amount is simply a repackaging of federal grants and other appropriations that had either already been announced or were expected. Governor Evers and Senator Baldwin have called on the Trump administration to stand behind its promise and send new money to aid Kenosha businesses.



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### Kenosha “Rebuilding” Funding Announced by Pres. Trump

**\$4M** CARES Act funding from March

**\$41.1M** DOJ grants announced prior to  
Kenosha unrest

**\$1M** New funding for public safety

[http://www.thewheelerreport.com/wheeler\\_docs/files/092320evers.pdf](http://www.thewheelerreport.com/wheeler_docs/files/092320evers.pdf)



## ***Due to Record-Breaking Covid Surge, Governor Extends Mask Order***

With Wisconsin’s positive Covid cases continuing to climb, especially in cities that are home to colleges and universities, Governor Tony Evers has extended the statewide mask mandate to Nov. 21. Over the last several weeks, Wisconsin has been among the states with the fastest growth in Covid cases, and health officials fear this may only get worse as colder temperatures roll in and flu season hits.

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## ***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](https://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](https://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](https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov) is encouraged

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.



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### ***Wisconsin Business Development Groups Release Guidebook, Hold Virtual Workshop for Small Businesses Coping with Covid***

The Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Cooperative (WWBIC) and the UW-Madison Small Business Development Center have joined forces to help small businesses navigate the new world of Covid-19. A resource guide is available (<https://sbdc.wisc.edu/covid-19/response-resources/?fbclid=IwAR1nler4fwsMUrdNqjI2zX2t7oyrI7KjEdTMEomei6ZVBSOyRt4lrAlehxA>), and the two groups will be hosting a one-hour, virtual workshop to answer questions on the guide. The event will be Friday, September 25, from 1 - 2 pm, and you can register at [https://www.wwbic.com/events/friday-feature-navigating-the-new-normal-handbook-sbdc-0925/?fbclid=IwAR3GE25V07WD-qcofU\\_8DY1OYHGrDnmSm\\_oWomsQVRle5XEyDC\\_aEi0ugXU](https://www.wwbic.com/events/friday-feature-navigating-the-new-normal-handbook-sbdc-0925/?fbclid=IwAR3GE25V07WD-qcofU_8DY1OYHGrDnmSm_oWomsQVRle5XEyDC_aEi0ugXU).

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## ***Wirch “Voice of the People” Supports State Medicaid Expansion***

[https://www.kenoshanews.com/opinion/letters/writer-accepting-medicaid-funds-would-save-state-taxpayers-millions/article\\_ef83b859-c2dd-5846-a06b-da07748374f8.html](https://www.kenoshanews.com/opinion/letters/writer-accepting-medicaid-funds-would-save-state-taxpayers-millions/article_ef83b859-c2dd-5846-a06b-da07748374f8.html)



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