



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

November 20, 2020



Dear friend,

Thanksgiving is here, and though this has been a difficult year, most of us have plenty to be thankful for. This year will be a little different. With Covid-19 spreading unchecked, the best decision is to stay at home and celebrate the holiday with only those in your immediate household. I know it's hard, and we all miss our loved ones, but please, it's not worth the risk. Watch [this clip](#) from The Rachel Maddow Show, in which Rachel talks about the anguish she and her family went through when her partner of over 20 years was diagnosed with Covid. Rachel did not have it, and they were forced to separate; there was a period where it looked like Susan might not make it, and no one could be with her during this dark period. Make the right choice, for yourself and those you love. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

In Case You Missed It

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



*Petals by Felicia Has Been Brightening Lives in Racine's
Uptown Since 2016*

PBF
Petals by Felicia
Floral & Event Design



Whether you need a beautiful floral arrangement for a wedding, funeral, holiday, prom or some other occasion, Racine's Petals by Felicia (1337 Washington Ave.) has you covered. The shop is a family affair, co-owned by Felicia Cooper and her husband, Leighton Cooper, Sr. They pride themselves on good customer service and listening to their clients to fully meet their needs. Their service area includes Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee Counties, so give them a look for your next occasion.

<https://petalsbyfelicia.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/1stloveliveflowers/>



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Governor Evers Announces Covid Relief Proposal, Extends Covid Preventative Measures

With the spread of Covid-19 still out of control statewide (and nationwide), Governor Evers this week announced his plans to extend the order requiring masks in public places at least into the new year. Meanwhile, the Republican-supported lawsuit attempting to overturn the mask requirement continues. Also this week, the Governor released a new Covid-19 relief proposal. Among the provisions in the proposal are: an extension of the work search requirement waiver for unemployment benefits; a prohibition on insurers requiring cost-sharing for Covid-related medical care; a ban on evictions and foreclosures through 2021; an allowance for critical frontline workers like healthcare professionals and law enforcement to claim worker's compensation benefits related to Covid-19; an extension on the waiver of the unemployment insurance one week waiting period; a waiver of student assessment and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year; and a change in state law to allow SSDI recipients to also claim unemployment benefits. The package also includes funding to continue the current levels of Covid testing, contact tracing and other pandemic responses currently funded by the federal CARES Act, which expires at the end of the year, through April 1, 2021.



Increased Covid Testing Options

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

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While the state Department of Health Services cites “Very High Covid Activity” in **all 72 counties, AND 65 of 72 COUNTIES NOW AT CRITICALLY HIGH LEVELS**, there are currently an increased number 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.

National Guard Drive-through testing in Kenosha: The Wisconsin National Guard will be conducting free, drive-through testing from 10 am to 6 pm each Monday from October 12 - Dec. 7 at both the Kenosha County Job Center, 8600 Sheridan Rd, Kenosha, and the Kenosha County Center at Highways 45 and 50 in Bristol (no testing at Bristol site on Nov. 27). No appointments are necessary, and symptoms are not required in order to get tested. Testing is open to any person who lives or works in Wisconsin and is age 5 or above. Online pre-registration is recommended at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

National Guard Drive-through testing in Racine: Each Tuesday and Wednesday from now until December 9 (excluding November 11), from 10 am - 6 pm at the Central Racine County Health Department, 10005 Northwestern Ave., Franksville, and on Thursdays from November 4 through Dec. 10 (excluding Nov. 26), at the Cesar Chavez Community Center, 2221 Douglas Ave., Racine. No appointments necessary, and symptoms are not required. Testing is open to any person who lives or works in Wisconsin and is age 5 or above. Online pre-registration is recommended at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

Modern Apothecary: Each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday through at least Nov. 15, the locally-owned independent pharmacy will host drive-through testing in the parking lot south of the Simmons Island Beach House, 5001 Fourth Ave., in Kenosha. Hours are from 2-6 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 am - 1 pm on Saturdays. Testing is free of charge; [pre-registration](#) and an [appointment](#) are strongly encouraged.

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
To find other testing sites in the state, visit

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm>.

*****IMPORTANT: Changes to Local Testing*****

There are some important changes to note in local Covid-19 testing options. Advocate Aurora has halted their drive-through testing in Kenosha, as well as Milwaukee and Green Bay. They say the decision was made to redirect staff to patient care, as their inpatient counts continue to rise exponentially.

In some good news, UW System schools statewide, including Parkside, have been provided with a limited number of rapid-result Covid-19 tests. These tests provide results in 15-30 minutes. The tests are free of charge and available to the public, and you don't have to have symptoms to get a test. A positive rapid test will need to be confirmed with the regular Covid-19 test but will provide you some guidance on whether or not you need to quarantine during that period. Registration at



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<https://www.doineedacovid19test.com> is required. The tests are administered in De Simone Gym in the SAC on the Parkside campus Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 5 pm, and Friday, 9 am - 1 pm. Testing is expected to last at least several weeks.

<https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/surge-testing-faq.cfm>

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Beginning today, Friday, November 20, the Kenosha Fire Department will be offering free Covid-19 testing on Wednesdays and Fridays through the end of the year. Anyone who lives or works in Wisconsin, ages 5 and above, can get a test. Testing will be conducted at vacant Fire Station #3, 2121 Roosevelt Rd., from noon to 6 pm. An appointment is strongly encouraged through

<https://10to8.com/book/modernapothecary>. After making an appointment, please register in advance at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov/en-US/>.



Kenosha Common Council Approves Mask Ordinance

The Kenosha City Council has approved an ordinance requiring people to wear masks while in public places and businesses. Governor Evers has extended his statewide mask order at least into January, but it is being challenged in court. This is certainly a hot topic, as Wisconsin has some of the highest Covid numbers in the country, and hospitals become increasingly overwhelmed with new patients.

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Governor Continues “People’s Budget” Virtual Listening Sessions

Continuing a tradition started during his campaign, but with a twist to adapt to the age of Covid, Governor Tony Evers will be holding a series of virtual listening sessions to gather input on the upcoming state budget. Participants must register ahead of time [here](#); registration is available one week before the scheduled session date. Wisconsinites are also welcome to send their thoughts on this, or any other topic, at any time [here](#).

Budget Listening Session on Environment, Infrastructure and the Economy
Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 6 pm

Budget Listening Session on Criminal Justice Reform
Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 6 pm

Budget Listening Session on Our Schools and Education
Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 6 pm



Free Thanksgiving Meals Offered Locally



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God's Kitchen is hosting a drive-up take-out meal Sunday, November 22, from noon to 3 pm, at the Kenosha VFW, 6618 39th Ave. Volunteers will be handing out boxed meals to people in their cars and to those who walk up.

Captain Mike's Beer and Burger Bar has obtained a food truck and will be using it to distribute a free holiday meal on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, from 11 am to 1 pm at Library Park, 6039-6063 Eighth Ave. in Kenosha.

Shalom Center of the Interfaith Network is offering a free dinner-on-the-go, Sunday, November 22, from 3:30 - 6 pm. Menu items include: turkey, ham, meatballs and chicken; green beans, macaroni, mostaccioli, dressing, potatoes, greens and loaded potato soup; and caramel cake and chocolate cake.

Several Community Groups in Kenosha will be hosting a free turkey giveaway this Sunday, November 22, from 12 - 2 pm, at Moe Moe's on 52nd, 1912 52nd St. in Kenosha. In addition to the turkey, hats and gloves will be given away. Delivery is available for the elderly and sick by calling 262-595-5261. The event is sponsored by *Fight for \$15 Wisconsin; SEIU; Succeed Beyond High School, Inc; and Peace in the Streets Kenosha, Inc.*

Dan and Ray's annual Thanksgiving meal in Racine will be drive-through and walk-up style from 10 am to 1 pm on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26. Food will be prepared inside Festival Hall, packaged and distributed. You do not need to register ahead of time.

Walmart Stores across the country have teamed with Butterball, Campbell's, Coca-Cola and Ibotta to feed anyone who needs it. To claim your free meal, walk into any Walmart store and pick up the following items: Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup; a two liter bottle of Coke; a Butterball turkey; Idahoan Mashed Potatoes; Great Value Stuffing; Great Value Cranberry Sauce; and Great Value Frozen Green Beans. When you go to checkout, scan your receipt with the Ibotta app and you'll get a refund sent to your account.



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IKEA Community Foundation Contributes to Grants for Workplace Racial Equity

IKEA's US Community Foundation has donated \$947,000 to the state Department of Workforce Development to fund Workforce Equity Grants aimed at reducing racial disparities in the workplace. The grants are available to southeastern Wisconsin employers and can be used to reimburse businesses for the costs to develop and implement training programs and workplace supports for underserved populations. Applications for the grant program are due by 3 pm on Monday, January 18, 2021, and must be submitted by email to WorkforceEquityGrant@dwd.wisconsin.gov. More information is available at <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/det/>.