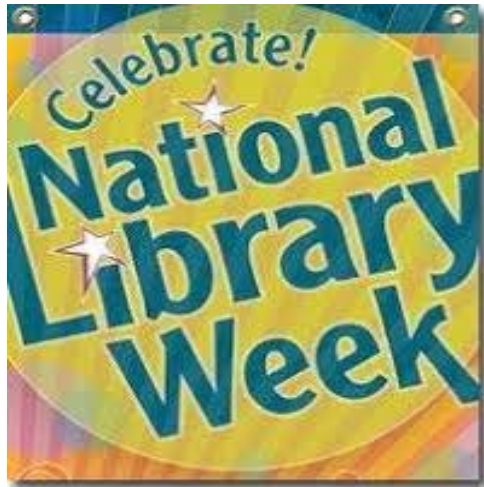




ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

April 9, 2021



Dear friend,

This week is recognized as National Library Week, and I wanted to take the opportunity to honor the wonderful public libraries in Kenosha and Racine and our terrific, hardworking, dedicated library staff that help make libraries a special, and highly important, part of our communities. Thank you all. We saw some concerning news this week, as the number of new Covid-19 infections per day continues to tick up once again, even as vaccinations continue at a quick pace. One of the most concerning developments is the new wave of infections in children. With those under 16 not yet eligible for vaccination, this is just one more reason that all of us, whether fully vaccinated or not, continue to mask up and take other precautions. As always, stay safe and healthy.

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

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In Case You Missed It

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Grant Funding Available to Racine Small Businesses



Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC) and Racine County have been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration to help area small businesses impacted by Covid-19. In order to qualify for grant funding, businesses must be located in Racine County; have five employees or fewer; and have been negatively impacted by Covid; in addition, a majority of the business's employees must be making low to moderate wages. While all qualified businesses are encouraged to apply, RCEDC and Racine County are urging minority-owned, women-owned and veteran-owned businesses to seek grant funding. The grant funds may be used for operations, consultant or coaching costs or training. More details about the grant will be made available soon at rcedc.org/cdbg.



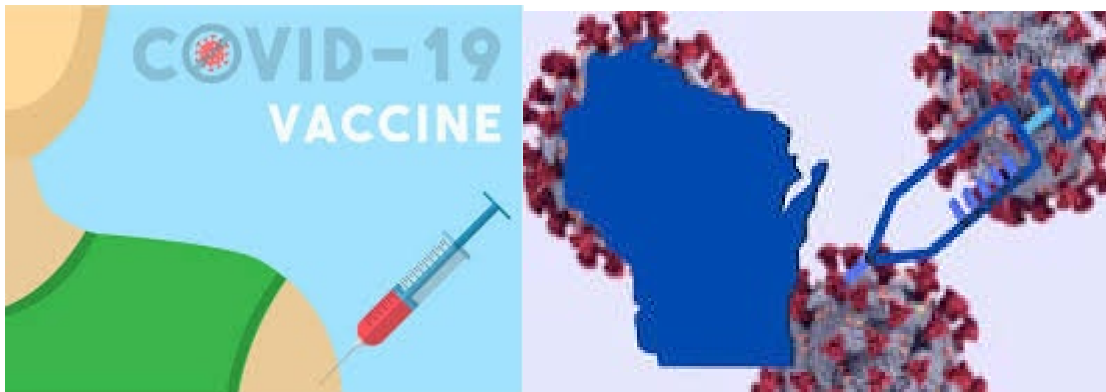
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Supreme Court Ruling in Case Brought by GOP Donor to Cost State More Than \$50 Million per Month in Federal Food Aid

As expected, the state Department of Health Services has confirmed that the state Supreme Court ruling eliminating Governor Evers' emergency order on Covid and the statewide masking requirement will cost the state between \$50 and \$70 million per month in federal food aid, beginning in May. The lawsuit that led to the Supreme Court decision was brought by major Republican donor Jere Fabick, who had also donated to Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Bradley, and backed by state Republicans. The increased federal food aid money was made available through the federal CARES Act to states with an active Covid-19 emergency order. According to Sherrie Tusler of the Hunger Task Force, many low-income seniors who are currently receiving \$204 per month in food assistance will see their aid drop to \$16 per month as a result.



Vaccinations are Up, but so are New Covid Cases

All Wisconsinites age 16 and older are now eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine, and Wisconsin remains among the national leaders in vaccine distribution. That's the good news. The bad news is that

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Wisconsin is among a number of states seeing an increase in new Covid-19 infections, including among children. An outbreak at a daycare center in Dane County resulted in at least 35 newly infected, including 16 children. Nationally, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky reported this week that the so-called “UK variant”, which is more contagious and more dangerous, is now the dominant strain of Covid-19 in the U.S. Our neighboring state of Michigan is currently seeing the worst surge in the nation, and our other surrounding states, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa, are seeing steep increases, as well. Vaccination will bring us some return to normalcy, but we aren’t there yet. We all need to step up to get vaccinated when it is our turn, and in the meantime, we must continue to follow CDC recommendations - wear a mask, avoid gatherings, wash your hands.

Kenosha County operates a Covid-19 Vaccine Call Center. The call center is open to people who don’t have access to schedule a vaccination appointment online. These people can call (262)605-6799 to speak with someone who will walk them through the appointment process, if they are eligible. The online list of Kenosha County Covid vaccine providers is still available, at <http://bit.ly/KCCCOVIDHub>, as well. The new Kenosha County Covid Vaccination Clinic site, located inside the former Shopko at 5300 52nd St., is now operational. You can use the above link to find appointment times.

The Grace Welcome Center in Kenosha, 2006 60th St., will be hosting a Kenosha County Health Department vaccination clinic on April 13, 20 and 27 and May 4, from 2:00 - 5:30 pm. No appointments are necessary.

People in Racine can sign up for email updates on vaccination progress at <https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine>. A list of Racine area vaccination providers is available at <https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine#Locations>. Festival Hall has been opened up as a vaccination clinic site. Use the first link to receive information on vaccination appointment availability.



Protect Yourself Against Covid-19 Vaccination Scams

The state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is sounding the alarm about the potential for new scams surrounding the Covid-19 vaccination. The number one message they want consumers to know is: **You cannot buy the vaccine.** It is only available at federal- and state-approved locations like health care clinics, local health departments, and community vaccination centers. With vaccine supplies still limited in some communities around the state, the Department is concerned that some people, desperate to vaccinate themselves or family members, will fall prey to scams requesting payment for “vaccinations”. The Federal Trade Commission has reported nearly 3,000 Covid-related scams in Wisconsin in the last year; DATCP says that’s likely the tip of the iceberg, as most go unreported. DATCP offered these tips to avoid being scammed: (1) **Use reliable information when it comes to the latest on vaccines.** These include your doctor, local health department or local news



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outlets; (2) **Don't click on links in unsolicited emails or texts;** (3) **Again - you will never have to pay out-of-pocket to get the Covid vaccine.** The federal government will not call, email or text you looking for personal or financial information, so don't hand it out. If you do fall victim to this or any other scam, contact your local police and file a consumer complaint at <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Homepage.aspx> or by calling 1-800-422-7128.



Governor Evers Commits \$46 Million in Stimulus Funds to New Round of "We're All In" Small Business Grants

An estimated 9,300 Wisconsin small businesses will receive financial assistance through a new round of "We're All In" grants announced this week by Governor Evers, the state Department of Revenue, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. A total of \$46 million is being allocated to this round of grants, with each awardee receiving \$5,000. Demand for the last phase of the grant program exceeded funding, so those businesses that applied last time but weren't chosen will be given first priority. To find out more, go to

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/2cb7222>.



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Kenosha County Kickstart Plan Amended to Include Guidance on Large-Scale Public Events

Last year, Kenosha County, in conjunction with its municipalities, local officials and business leaders, released the Kenosha County Kickstart Plan, a roadmap for resuming operations after Covid-19 shutdowns. This week, an addendum to the Kickstart Plan was released, offering guidance on large-scale events. The addendum reflects the fact that when the original plan was released, no large-scale events were being held. The new section divides events into three risk categories - Low, Medium, and High Risk. You can find the full plan at <http://bit.ly/KCKickstart> and the addendum at <http://bit.ly/KCKickstartAddendum>.

BADGER BOUNCEBACK

LIVE SESSIONS

Budget News and Details, Including Listening Sessions

To read a detailed and in-depth analysis of Governor Evers' budget proposal, you can visit the Department of Administration's Executive Budget page, <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/2021-23%20Executive%20Budget.aspx>. You can also find a nonpartisan analysis of the Governor's budget proposal by the Legislative Reference Bureau at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/010_2021_budget_bill_analysis.pdf. **Governor Evers still has two listening sessions remaining: Justice Reform and Marijuana Legalization; and Climate Change & our Environment.** You can find dates and times, as well as instructions for registration, [here](#).

The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee will be holding four public hearings on the budget; three will be held in person, in different parts of the state, and one will be virtual, allowing for participation from all parts of Wisconsin. You can find the locations, dates and times, and more [here](#).



Questions About Your Federal Stimulus Payments?

If you have questions about the latest round of federal stimulus or have reason to believe that your check was misdirected or lost in the mail, contact Congressman Bryan Steil. His staff is best positioned to offer assistance. Congressman Steil's Kenosha office can be reached at (262)654-1901, and his Racine office number is (262)637-0510.



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Local Covid Testing Options

There are a 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.

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: A drive-through testing site at the former Chase Bank, 5506 Seventh Ave., is open to patients who complete a quick registration process at <https://www.kenoshachc.org/covid-19-resource-center/>. Testing is conducted Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 am to 4 pm.

Old Kenosha Fire Station No. 3: Free, drive-through testing will be offered during the following hours at the former No. 3 Fire Station, 2121 Roosevelt Rd., Kenosha: Tuesdays, 2-6 pm; Thursdays, 2-6 pm; Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm. This testing is being offered in a partnership between locally-owned Modern Apothecary, the Wisconsin DHS, and the Kenosha Fire Department. An appointment and preregistration is strongly encouraged, with appointment times available at <https://modernapothecary.10to8.com> and registration available at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

Anyone who lives or works in Wisconsin, ages 5 and over, can be tested.

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 <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.

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



Looking for Results from Tuesday's Elections?

For Kenosha County results, go to <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/1405/Current-Election-Results>. For results from Racine County, check out <https://www.racinecounty.com/departments/county-clerk/election-information/election-results>.