

WMC is continuing to monitor the evolving situation relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help spread awareness at your business, WMC has put together a series of infographics for you to distribute and print. To view these, please click here:

- [Infographic #1: Keeping the Workplace Safe](#)
- [infographic #2: Keeping Commercial Establishments Safe](#)
- [Infographic #3: Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands](#)

WMC hosted a webinar today featuring Senator Ron Johnson

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC), its trade association partners and local chambers had a business coalition update call with U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson. The call detailed the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and updated how the business community is impacted.

- [Click here for the full audio from the COVID-19 Update: Senator Ron Johnson](#)

WMC continues to work with federal and state governments, national partners and others to ensure you have the most up to date and accurate information.

Gov. Tony Evers today directed Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to issue updates to the previous order prohibiting mass gatherings of 10 or more people.

The [updated order](#) maintains the ban on gatherings of 10 or more people and indefinite school closures, but includes some important changes and clarifications:

- Treats bars and restaurants are the same. Bars will be able to have carryout sales of alcohol and food, if allowed by local ordinances and state law. This will help ensure thousands of establishments can stay in business during this unprecedented health emergency.
- Media and news organizations can remain open to provide the public with vital information.
- Laundromats may remain open.
- Banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions may remain open if they practice social distancing.
- All parts of the food delivery system – from farms to stores – may remain open.
- Clarifies that cafeterias in healthcare facilities may remain open to serve our healthcare workers.
- Allied health professions, such as acupuncturists, are unaffected by the mass gathering ban.
- All parts of our transportation system can continue to serve our economy.
- Any facility used for in-person absentee voting or as a polling location may remain open for voting, except for sites at long-term care and assisted care facilities.
- Hair salons, day spas, nail salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors, body art establishments, and tanning facilities must close effective 5 pm on Fri., March 20, 2020.

Trump Administration Issues “Essential Business” Guidance

As states like California and Pennsylvania move toward “shelter in place” orders with dire economy-wide economic impacts, businesses that provide critical products and services are understandably concerned about maintaining their important operations. To help inform state and local governments considering these types of orders, President Trump’s Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a guidance document titled [“Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce.”](#) Although not binding on state and local governments, the DHS document provides very helpful information to guide exemptions from shutdown decisions.

The guidance exempts workers in many critical industries, including healthcare, law enforcement, food and agriculture, energy, transportation/logistics, and the manufacturing and distribution activities that service, supply, and support those industries. WMC has provided Governor Evers and his Administration with the DHS guidance, and we continue to maintain daily communication with them about the importance of ensuring that businesses in Wisconsin are allowed to function during this crisis. Notably, and to his credit, Governor Evers has stated that he does not believe a “shelter in place” order will be necessary for Wisconsin. As such, we do not anticipate further restrictions on mobility or gatherings in Wisconsin at this time.

Additionally, the Trump Administration took more steps in response to COVID-19:

- The President [held a teleconference at FEMA](#) with our nation’s governors to discuss response efforts.
- The Administration issued a global level 4 travel advisory, informing Americans that they should avoid all international travel.
- The President announced Carnival Cruise Lines will make ships available for hospitals in impacted areas to use for non-coronavirus patients.

The Trump Administration also released the following resources:

- [What you need to know - Cutting Red Tape](#)
- [What you need to know - Containment, Mitigation, & Innovation](#)

Summary of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

This week, President Trump signed H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. We have fielded many questions from employers seeking clarification on what is the bill. This summary will walk through the various components of the final bill as signed by President Trump.

The new law contains many parts. Key provisions for employers include unemployment benefits, paid sick leave, and paid FMLA to care for a child now home because their school or daycare is closed.

[Click here to continue reading the full summary.](#)

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. As a reminder, please practice proper social distancing as recommended by DHS and the CDC. Also, continue to wash your hands regularly with soap and water, avoid touching your face and please stay home if you feel ill.

For the latest updates, please visit www.wmc.org/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Kurt R. Bauer
WMC President and CEO