



**MILWAUKEE**  
JEWISH FEDERATION

**Re:** COVID-19 RESOURCE SUMMARY  
**Date:** Monday, July 20 – Friday, July 24, 2020

This memo is a daily synthesis of critical information and trends about the pandemic that are relevant to the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's work of caring for the needs of the Jewish people. While the information is intended for use by MJF leadership, we are also sharing it with other community leaders. If you have questions, please contact Anna Goldstein at [AnnaG@MilwaukeeJewish.org](mailto:AnnaG@MilwaukeeJewish.org) or 414-390-5733.

## Funding Resources

- Governor Tony Evers [announced](#) that **155 local education agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply for the \$46.6 million** provided to Wisconsin through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER Fund), established under the CARES Act. The announcement comes as [last month the governor announced](#) more than \$80 million in financial assistance for K-12 schools and higher education. This funding stream will help support students, teachers, and parents who are navigating uncertainty in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the recommendations from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and in consultation with State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor, the governor outlined eligibility criteria for schools most significantly impacted by COVID-19 based on economic disadvantage, access to personal computing devices, access to internet, and students' score on the English Language Arts Assessment. Wisconsin's three tribal schools will also receive the same per pupil payment as the 155 LEAs. The GEER Fund is in addition to the \$174.8 million that Wisconsin received through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. [A map of most impacted school districts is available.](#) [A list of eligible GEER funding for school districts, independent charters, and tribal schools is available.](#) In collaboration with the Governor's Office, DPI will provide additional information about applying for the funds.
- [The Jews of Color Initiative COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund for Individuals](#) is meant to assist **People of Color in the Jewish community who are most in need as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.** Jews of Color, like all People of Color in the United States, experience the headwinds of systemic racism, and systemic racism is a variable in COVID-19's disproportionate impact of People of Color. The Jews of Color Initiative supports Jews of Color in professional, organizational, and community spheres. The funding is for People of Color in the Jewish community living in the U.S. **The funding is for individuals facing hardship and an inability to obtain basic necessities as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.** Please complete the entire application. Applications that are not fully completed will not be eligible for review. All information will be kept anonymous. Funds are limited and not every application will be funded. Funds will be released on a rolling basis until funds are depleted. **All funding will be in the range of**

**\$250 - \$2500** and must be used for rent or mortgage payment; transportation to work or medical appointment; utilities; groceries; medical bills; or burial expenses.

- As part of their coronavirus debt relief efforts, **the SBA is paying six months of principal, interest, and any associated fees for current and new SBA-backed loans disbursed before Sunday, September 27** in the agency's most popular loan programs (7(a), 504, and Microloan). Note: If you're seeking a loan to cover fixed assets such as furniture, real estate, machinery, equipment, construction, and/or remodeling, **you may need to have information to your lender by Friday, August 7 for the loan to be processed in time.** [Learn more](#) about starting or growing your small business with an SBA-guaranteed loan and start the process now to take advantage of six months of debt relief. [Find a lender](#) and view all relief options at [sba.gov/coronavirus](https://sba.gov/coronavirus).
- **[The Wisconsin Humanities Council \(WHC\) is offering Mini Grants of up to \\$2,000 and Major Grants of up to \\$10,000 \(both require matching funds\) to Wisconsin unincorporated groups and nonprofit organizations for a broad range of humanities programs and projects aimed at public audiences.](#)** Funding is intended to address needs and strengthen the community. Projects must serve residents of Wisconsin, although the subject matter does not have to be specific to the state. **Applications for projects focused on race and ethnicity that serve people in Northern Wisconsin are encouraged.** WHC supports and creates programs that use history, culture, and discussion to strengthen community life for everyone in Wisconsin. **WHC grants fund projects across the state, in communities of all sizes, for participants of all ages and backgrounds. Projects must be designed for a general audience and must engage the public in the humanities.** [Read more about criteria](#) and characteristics of a successful grant proposal. [Review WHC funding priorities](#) and [examples of recently funded projects](#). [Learn more about the Humanities](#) and [Humanities Experts](#). **All sponsoring organizations that apply for funding from the WHC must obtain a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number and report that number to the WHC when submitting an application.** Read instructions on acquiring a DUNS number immediately via telephone by visiting the [DUNS Request Service website](#). **Due to the continuing concerns about COVID-19, all applications must be submitted electronically in a single PDF file emailed to Grant Program Director [Meg Turville-Heitz](#) by the deadline. A SINGLE hard copy with ORIGINAL signatures must be sent to 3801 Regent Street, Suite 101, Madison, WI 54705 by regular U.S. postal service** (no one is available to take deliveries or sign for packages). **The Mini Grant has an electronic submission deadline of Saturday, August 1 and a hard copy deadline of Monday, August 10. The Major Grant has an electronic submission deadline of Saturday, August 15 and a hard copy deadline of Tuesday, September 1.** New and previous applicants are encouraged to contact the Funding Source. If you need help with proposal development, or are developing a media project, please contact WHC staff for additional guidelines and/or information. The Grant Program Director, [Meg Turville-Heitz](#), is ready to brainstorm an idea, clarify guidelines, or connect you with a humanities expert – contact her by phone at 608-265-5595. [Get more information on Digital Humanities Planning](#).

- **[The Waukesha County Community Foundation \(WCCF\) is offering grants](#) of up to \$10,000 to Wisconsin nonprofit organizations in eligible locations for programs that provide assistance to local communities. Focus areas include arts and culture, community development, health and human services, education, environment and conservation, and historic preservation. The Foundation will give preference to proposals that show collaboration among organizations serving similar clients, strengthen the internal operations of an organization, or impact outcomes on a community basis (collective impact). **Applicants must serve the people of Waukesha County.** The grant application process begins with the creation of an online account and submission of a letter of intent via the website. **Letters of intent must be submitted through the [website](#) by Saturday, August 1.** Organizations will receive, via email, either an invitation to submit a full proposal with access to the [online grant application](#) or a letter of regret. All organizations submitting full proposals will receive written notification of the Board's decision during the fourth quarter of the year. Use the [online contact form](#) or call 262-513-1861 with questions.**
- Effective as of Friday, July 17, **the Federal Reserve [has expanded its Main Street Lending Program](#) to include nonprofits with at least 10 employees**, opening another potential avenue for nonprofits and camps that meet this and other requirements to receive financial assistance during the coronavirus pandemic. The Main Street Lending Program is designed to help small and medium-sized businesses cover expenses through the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. Program lenders want to see a strong balance sheet, meaning this loan is potentially an option for nonprofits and camps **with short-term financial issues but long-term viability.** Given the cash and liquidity requirements of this loan program, nonprofits and camps should meet with their lenders to determine eligibility and best timing for application. [Get more information on Main Street loan requirements.](#) Here are some key requirements to consider in determining if the Main Street Lending Program is a good option. If your business:
  - Has been in continuous business since January 1, 2015
  - Has between 10 and 15,000 employees
  - Has an endowment of less than \$3 billion
  - Has non-donation revenue of more than 60% of expenses from 2017 through 2019
  - Is a U.S. company
  - Has not received CARES Act funding other than a PPP loan (Federal Reserve, 2020)
- **[The COVID-19 Business Continuity Planning Audit Grant is offering in-kind grants for technical support to U.S., Canada, and International institutions of higher education and K-12 schools.](#)** The purpose of this program is to help schools move their operations online. **Grant recipients will receive in-kind services including a Business Continuity assessment, proposed plan, and report.** Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the Campus Consortium has partnered with OculusIT™ to provide awarded institutions with services for a Business Continuity Planning Audit. The Audit is designed to help schools understand what measures they can take to move to a fully online operation. The grant will help institutions assess their readiness and

implementation options for achieving business continuity in the following areas: Online Learning Continuity; Work From Home Employee Access Continuity; Remote Student Access Continuity; Online Collaboration Continuity; and IT Infrastructure Continuity.

**Submit completed [Grant Application](#) and Letter of Intent by Tuesday, July 28. Only a limited number of institutions will be awarded for a grant of up to \$20,000 over 5 years for in-kind services.** Applicants are required to demonstrate institutional purpose in the form of a “letter of intent” signed by the Dean/President or member of the campus leadership team. The letter should indicate the challenges the solution aims to solve and why the grant would be helpful to the institution. **Submit completed Grant Application and Letter of Intent to [grantapplication@campusconsortium.org](mailto:grantapplication@campusconsortium.org).** Contact [info@campusconsortium.org](mailto:info@campusconsortium.org) or 216-589-9626 with questions. **[Check out other grant programs offered by Campus Consortium](#) including other grants with a deadline of Tuesday, July 28:**

- [Automating Student/Staff Onboarding & Offboarding \(Identity Management\) Grant](#) – eligible award amount of up to \$250,000 over 5 years;
  - [Single Sign-On Grant](#) – eligible award amount of up to \$100,000 over 5 years;
  - [NOC-as-a-Service Grant](#) – eligible award amount of up to \$50,000 over 5 years;
  - [Student Recruitment & Admissions CRM Grant](#) – eligible award amount of up to \$150,000 over 5 years;
  - [COVID-19 Online Learning & Working from Home Cybersecurity Grant](#) – eligible award amount of up to \$100,000 over 5 years;
  - [COVID-19 Artificial Intelligence Chatbot Grant](#) – eligible award amount of up to \$50,000 over 5 years.
- **[The Amber Foundation is offering grants](#) of \$4,000 to U.S. and Canada Women Entrepreneurs to start a business or grow an existing business. One grant will be awarded a month. One of the 12 monthly winners will be awarded a \$25,000 grant at the end of the year.** Funding is intended to help women achieve their entrepreneurial dreams. The funding source requests that businesses must be at least 50% women-owned for consideration. **The deadline for applications is Friday, July 31. There is a standard \$15 application fee, payable via secure checkout.** Check out [answers to FAQs](#) and [Grant Tips](#). [Apply online](#) and [get in contact](#) with Amber Grants.
  - **[The Al Larvick Conservation Fund \(ALCF\) is offering grants](#) of up to \$5,000 to U.S. organizations, institutions and individuals for the conservation of home and amateur audiovisual materials and their digital transfers.** Funding is intended to help cover the costs of products and services by professional film and video labs for the preservation of personal and public cultural histories. ALCF seeks to educate and provide public access to home and amateur audiovisual recordings to reveal their cultural significance, both for one’s personal family history and for society at large. The Al Larvick National Grant is limited to works recorded within the U.S. and primarily outside of North Dakota State. The fund tries to accommodate most analog (pre-digital) media formats. **Materials must fall under the definitions of “home” and/or “amateur” analog audiovisual (motion picture) materials.** Funds are used to cover

lab, shipping, and hard drive costs only. **The total budget of \$5,000 is to be used for in-kind services or money paid directly to other service providers. All work must be completed within a 12-month timeframe.** Applicants with small budgets are welcome and encouraged to apply. **Applications are due by Friday, July 31.** It takes up to three months from the grant deadline for the Board and Committee to make and notify applicants of award decisions (decisions usually happen sooner, however). Grants are open for submission year-round. **Online submission is required.** [Read the Guidelines](#) and get answers to [General FAQs](#). Email questions to [info@allarvickfund.org](mailto:info@allarvickfund.org).

- **SBA Debt Relief is paying the principal, interest, and fees on existing SBA loans for six months. For new SBA loans approved by Sunday, September 27, SBA will also pay principal, interest and fees for six months.** These are open to small businesses only. [Find a lender](#) or connect with one through [SBA LenderMatch](#).
- **Express lenders can approve SBA Express Loans quickly for up to \$1 million through Thursday, December 31, and veterans pay no up-front guaranty fee on them.** [Find an SBA Express lender](#).
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) published a request for information and a notice on the establishment of a new, temporary community advantage (CA) loan in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The new loans, titled “Community Advantage Recovery Loans” are designed for eligible CA Lenders to provide technical and financial assistance to assist small businesses in underserved areas who need to retool their business models for the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, SBA seeks comments on the new CA loan expansion. **The SBA-guaranteed loans will be available through Sunday, September 27 and must be fully disbursed no later than Thursday, October 1. Comments to the SBA are due by Friday, August 14.** [Read the Federal Register notice and submit comments on the proposed rule.](#)
- **Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett [announced that funds from the Milwaukee Restart grant program](#) will be sent to recipients in the next two weeks.** The Milwaukee Restart grant program, which was funded with federal CARES act money, will disburse a total of about \$4 million to more than 400 Milwaukee businesses. The grants are designed to provide financial support for small Milwaukee businesses impacted by COVID-19. Qualified businesses will receive up to \$15,000 for physical adaptations to their facilities, the purchase of PPE and restocking perishable inventory. To be eligible, these established Milwaukee businesses must have 20 or fewer employees and annualized gross revenue under \$2 million. More than 40% of grant applicants identified themselves as minority-owned businesses. More than 40% said they are women owned. Grant applications came from all across the city. When the grant program was announced in late May, the Department of City Development estimated that a total of as much as \$20 million could be disbursed as part of the grant program.

## Local Resources

- The members of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) [voted today to extend the moratorium on utility shutoffs for residential customers until Tuesday, September 1](#). In a 2-1 vote, the Commission approved the extension, citing health and economic factors tied to the coronavirus pandemic. The PSC noted that allowing utility disconnections could force people to leave their homes and into unsafe conditions during the pandemic. It should be noted that **utilities must grant a 21-medical extension of service when a customer or a member of a customer's household has tested positive for COVID-19. WeEnergies recommends that customers who are having difficulty paying their bill call 800-842-4565 as soon as possible** to discuss options, including payment plans and the potential for financial assistance.
- City and County health officials want to make sure families continue to address routine health care needs for children. Commissioner of Health Jeanette Kowalik, Director of Medical Services for Milwaukee County Dr. Ben Weston and Dr. Kristin Bencik from Children's Wisconsin spoke during a recent Milwaukee County COVID-19 press briefing about the importance of continuing routine care such as immunizations for children. One consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a dramatic decline in childhood immunizations. Many clinics temporarily closed during the pandemic, making it harder to maintain the recommended immunization schedule. Almost all clinics are back up and running. Be sure to reach out to your medical provider to ensure your child's vaccinations are up to date. [Download the full press briefing](#).
- MMAC has added a new metric to their [COVID-19 dashboard](#) that monitors the reproductive rate (R) of the COVID-19 virus across Wisconsin. R estimates how many secondary infections are likely to occur from a single infection in a specific area. Values over 1.0 mean we should expect more cases in that area, values under 1.0 mean we should expect fewer.
- Governor Tony Evers [announced](#) he has directed the Department of Administration (DOA), under Secretary Joel Brennan, to work with state agencies to **identify \$250 million in cost savings for the current fiscal year (FY20-21)**. The governor's proactive directive is an effort to ensure the state is in a stronger position to weather revenue impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, while also ensuring critical services remain accessible to Wisconsin residents. Earlier this summer, also at the direction of Governor Evers, [DOA announced the implementation of \\$70 million in cost savings for FY19-20](#) across 18 of Wisconsin's largest state agencies. DOA and state agencies will follow the same "North Star Values" in identifying cost savings, as was done in the previous reduction effort. Those values are:
  - Our primary responsibility is to provide Wisconsin residents relevant, quality, and timely services;
  - Public service means making sure Wisconsinites' hard-earned tax dollars are invested in ways that benefit their communities. It is also about being deeply knowledgeable and aware of the complicated ways in which state government, local governments, and individuals are interconnected financially (directly and indirectly);

- Transparency and accountability to both the Wisconsin public and state employees requires that we communicate prompt and useful information to stakeholders regarding budget reduction activities; and
- Humility, creative problem solving, service, flexibility, truth and patience: those are the values that will help us navigate the difficult fiscal road ahead.
- [WEDC has reviewed all of the more than 30,500 applications received](#) for the We're All In Small Business Grant Program. **Of those applications, more than 16,000 were approved and nearly 11,000 had already received their \$2,500 grant disbursement as of Tuesday, July 21.** [WEDC staff is working with the pool of approximately 14,000 remaining applicants](#) to determine which ones meet the criteria for the grant program, with a goal of helping business owners resubmit applications that were rejected on a technicality such as incomplete or mismatched information. [Read more about the We're All In Small Business Grant Program](#) or [find additional COVID-19 resources for businesses](#).
- [Outdoor recreation equipment lending is back for Urban Ecology Center \(UEC\) members](#). UEC has modified their methods to provide a safe and reliable check out process in accordance with health department recommendations about running a lending program. Equipment is sanitized between each use to minimize the potential for cross-contamination, and for the first time they are taking online reservations. Also, their Watercraft Lending Orientation (safety course) has been moved to an online platform, so members can take it on their own time with UEC staff available for any questions. Members can currently borrow canoes, kayaks and bikes through new curbside pickup procedures. **Individual membership fees are still \$50 annually, but the real deal is the family membership. \$60 a year allows for two adults, any children under 18 and one guest access to any and all of the available recreational equipment for rent through UEC.** [Learn more about making a reservation for equipment rental](#).
- **Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and Milwaukee Recreation are launching the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Run Back to School program which will now be virtual.** The Run Back to School: Virtual Challenge raises funds to support MPS youth recreation and wellness programs across the city. **The Challenge will run from Monday, August 3 – Thursday, August 27.** Individuals registered for the challenge will complete four fitness activities during the August dates, equivalent to 120 minutes (about 30 minutes/week). Activities could include walking, running, biking, hiking, yoga, fitness classes, and more. All participants are invited to join the official Run Back to School: Virtual Challenge Facebook group to learn about weekly challenges or hear from other participants about additional ways to stay active. **The event concludes on Thursday, August 27 with a drive-through celebration at Wick Field Parking lot (4929 W Vliet Street) between 3 – 7 pm CT,** where participants can pick up their official t-shirt and swag bag and be greeted by the RBTS cheering team. **Registration is \$5 for children, and \$10 for adults. Please note, there will be no in-person registration at this time. Registration for the event is now open and runs until Thursday, August 27.** Register [online](#) (activity code: 5RBS3301), over the phone by calling 414-475-8410 (please have credit card information ready), or by mail by sending a [registration form](#) to

RBTS: Virtual Challenge, c/o Youth Sports, 5225 W Vliet Street, Room 163, Milwaukee, WI 53208. For more information visit the [website](#) or call 414-475-8410.

- The Milwaukee Common Council Judiciary and Legislation Committee voted on Monday, July 20 to [recommend for approval two resolutions](#) authorizing the city to accept more than \$2.4 million in grant funding to bolster voting security and ensure the handling of expected higher numbers of requests this fall for absentee ballot applications amid the COVID-19 pandemic.** Council file #200445 – sponsored by Alderman Cavalier Johnson and Alderman Michael J. Murphy – authorizes the acceptance of the WEC CARES Sub-grant, issued by the Wisconsin Elections Commission. The legislation authorizes the Election Commission to accept and fund additional election administration costs associated with the national emergency related to coronavirus **in the amount of \$323,861**. The project will provide funding for increases in postage and operating costs due to higher levels of absentee voting and increased absentee voting education. Council file #200558, sponsored by Alderman Johnson, authorizes the city to accept **the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) grant in the amount of \$2,154,500** for planning and implementing a safe and secure election administration in the City of Milwaukee in accordance with the Wisconsin Safe Voting Plan 2020. **The CTCL grant will help pay for PPE, poll worker recruitment, and a \$100 raise for poll workers.** The CTCL grant will also provide funding for an assessment of election administration needs, budget estimates for such assessment, and an assessment of the impact of the plan on voters. The grant funding will ultimately help reduce the burden on taxpayers while helping the city prepare for the fall 2020 primary and general elections. **The files will go before the full Common Council when it meets on Tuesday, July 28 at 9 am CT. The meeting will be televised live** on the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 88 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) and via streaming video on the [city website](#).
- From WeEnergies, [here are Summer Savings Tips](#) that can help keep you cool and comfortable and keep your energy bill low. Caulk air leaks to keep hot air out of your home or add attic insulation to maintain a consistent temperature. Find more tips on simple changes or larger energy efficiency improvements, learn about product and project discounts, or search for a certified contractor in your area.
- MMAC President Tim Sheehy and Dr. John Raymond, President and CEO of MCW, will join John Mercure on WTMJ Radio at **4:20 pm each Tuesday** for a weekly radio segment on Milwaukee's health and economy. **Listen live on 620 AM or [wtmj.com](#).**
- The Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) program helps small businesses in designated urban and rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities. The HUBZone program qualifies your business to compete for the program's set-aside contracts. HUBZone-certified businesses also get a 10% price evaluation preference in full and open contract competitions. A business must be certified by the U.S. SBA to qualify for this program and must be registered in SAM prior to submission of the certification documentation. Currently, many Federal agencies and Federal Prime contractors are NOT meeting their HUBZone goals. This could be a potential opportunity for your business. Contact Event Organizer [Michael Steger](#) with questions.

## National Resources

- [A Playbook for Reopening Workspaces](#) from *Leading Edge* provides in-depth questions and frameworks to help organizations center human factors like team culture, emotional support and equity in their reopening plans. Whether you and your leadership team are just beginning the reopening conversation, are in the middle of planning a reopening, or have reopened and begun your readjustment, this playbook can help you along your journey to a stronger organization.
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is [pushing to unveil an approximately \\$1 trillion coronavirus relief bill as early as Wednesday, July 29](#). The legislation would include a new round of payments to individual Americans and tens of billions of dollars for schools, with some of the money tied to classrooms reopening. McConnell is still working to overcome divisions with the White House, as President Donald Trump has insisted on the inclusion of a payroll tax cut that is deeply unpopular with Senate Republicans.
- Listen to the [CDC Foundation's Contagious Conversations Podcast](#) featuring in-depth discussions on the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more from podcast guests who share their perspectives related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the social and political determinants of health, the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on people of color and our tribal nations, and the role of public health responders in protecting communities across the country. Listen on Apple or Google Podcasts or your favorite podcasting app.
- White House officials and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Tuesday, July 21 that their goal is to reach an agreement on a [new coronavirus stimulus plan](#) by the end of next week, a deadline that leaves them little margin for error with expanded unemployment benefits set to expire.
- Read the CDC Foundation's [latest report](#) on their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The CDC's weekly surveillance summary of U.S. COVID-19 activity is available through the [COVIDView report](#). The latest report shows that the percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 decreased nationally but increased in several regions of the country. Additionally, the Southeast, South-Central, Southwest and Pacific Coast regions of the U.S. are now seeing the highest percentages yet of people testing positive for COVID-19.
- CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield is advocating all Americans wear masks and face coverings as a way to end the COVID-19 pandemic. [In an editorial and interview](#) with the Journal of the American Medical Association this week, Dr. Redfield and CDC experts said that universal nationwide use of face masks, along with social distancing and handwashing, could bring the spread of COVID-19 under control within four to eight weeks. Additionally, [a recent CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) shows how face coverings can help prevent COVID-19. The report highlights that two hair stylists with COVID-19 exposed over 100 clients. All wore face coverings, and no clients were known to be infected with COVID-19.

## Agency Resources

### *Federations*

- **The Milwaukee Jewish Federation is offering a FREE two-part workshop on Grant Writing 101: How to Write Proposals Donors Want to Fund.** You will receive practical guidance and an opportunity to have your work reviewed by an experienced grant writer and trainer. The first session will teach you the basics. You'll leave with a short assignment to write an executive summary. At the second session, the trainer will help participants improve their executive summaries. **Session 1 will take place on Friday, August 14 from 10 – 11:30 am CT and Session 2 will take place on Friday, August 28 from 10 – 11 am CT.** Staff and volunteers from nonprofits who would like to learn how to write effective grant proposals should attend. The skills you learn will be useful for all types of funders and proposals – from simple to complex. [Register by Friday, August 7.](#) For questions about this workshop please contact [Cait Schmidt](#) at 414-390-5741.
- [Review JFNA's past webinars](#) on timely and relevant topics, including:
  - Creating and Executing Effective and Adaptive PPE Acquisition Strategy: For day schools, health agencies and others, reopening physical spaces can be daunting. Experts discuss how they are charting a path forward in this uncertain terrain.
  - Preparing for the Safety and Security Issues: Facilitated by the Secure Community Network, this webinar offers guidance on the health and safety issues that organizations need to address before they reopen.
  - Making the Leadership Decision: Having a hard time making the decision to reopen? A lot of this comes down to leadership: how we, as organizational leaders, hold anxiety, expectations and homes, mission, and safety
  - Learning About Israel's Experience: Israelis face similar issues around reopening but have drawn on a different set of experiences. When it comes to the schools and social service centers, learn how Israelis navigate in this webinar.

### *Schools*

- ASHRAE, the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration has [updated guidance](#) for schools and universities from their Epidemic Task Force.

### *Camps*

- From the American Camp Association, [here are five reasons and benefits](#) to rent out your camp for groups this Summer and Fall.
- Researchers from Brown, MIT, Harvard, Mass General, and elsewhere are tracking COVID-19 cases in camps. Please consider being part of their tracking sample, beginning with a [baseline form](#). [Get more information.](#)

### *Jewish Family Services*

- Jewish Family Services is open (remotely) and offers vital, supportive services such as therapy and counseling; case management and social services; services for Holocaust survivors, the aging and elderly; and JHelp, which offers crisis funding for individuals who need assistance with rent/mortgage, food, transportation, clothing, utilities (phone/internet), and other emergent needs. Call JFS at 414-390-5800 for more information.

### *SHOFAR*

- [SHOFAR](#) (Safeguarding Health Families and Relationships) is an initiative of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation that addresses child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and domestic violence. [Read more](#) about SHOFAR. If you'd like to be involved, contact [Tziporah Altman-Shafer](#) at 414-963-2718. See all [SHOFAR resources](#) to get help now.
- Call the Sojourner Family Peace Center 24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline at 414-933-2722. The National Domestic Hotline offers 24/7 support in more than 200 languages – call 800-799-7233.

### *MJFLA*

- The Milwaukee Jewish Free Loan Association offers confidential, interest free loans for any purpose to people who find themselves in a time of financial need. [Learn more](#) or call 414-961-1500.

## **Reopening Recommendations and Best Practices**

### *Camps*

- The Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) has focused the past few months on helping camps navigate the immediate crisis. With many camps closed and pivoting to virtual programming this summer, [FJC has begun to turn their attention to the new and evolving reality for Summer 2021](#). FJC and their camp partners are aligned in the understanding that re-creation alone won't help rebuild camp better than before. Camps must be open to re-imagining as well, and open to hard, complex questions that galvanize innovation and adaptation. FJC intends to help the field reopen with intentionality in 2021 by convening *va'adim* (committees) made up of camp professionals, lay leaders, funders, and FJC staff to reevaluate many aspects of camp. By coming together to question all assumptions, camps can adapt and innovate toward an even better camp experience for campers, families, counselors, and staffs. FJC wants to ensure that the 2021 camp comeback is intentional in every way. The questions and topics FJC most urgently wishes to discuss/form *va'adim* around are:
  - Financial Health: To offset the financial losses from closures this summer, camps must adjust their thinking about camps' financial resources, reserves, and

endowments. Camps must also re-evaluate the correct financial model for families. Exploring ways to keep camp affordable is a challenge FJC had taken on prior to COVID-19, and the issue is even more urgent and sensitive in the wake of the pandemic.

- Rethinking Camp Itself: What would camp look like if sessions were shorter, the number of attendees was smaller, the programs simpler, and the cost cheaper? How can camps leverage virtual gatherings to support this process? If camps wish to engage entire families in immersive Jewish experience, should family camps be hosted at traditional camps, or in central communally-based locations – or could it be some combination?
- Year-Round Engagement: How do camps leverage the virtual model to reach their camp community outside of the summer season? What sort of on-site camp gatherings could camps plan at certain times throughout the year to shape an ongoing camp community? How do camps most effectively engage alumni, community partners, and donors in year-round convenings? How do you take everything good about camp – the meaningful communal connections, the character-building experiences, and the inspiration for continuous Jewish engagement – and integrate it into the lives of people of all ages year-round?
- Community Care Mode: How do you make Jewish camps even more inclusive, diverse and caring? Camps need to look at creating and supporting their camp community through societal and individual mental health challenges. For campers with disabilities, how do camps provide an inclusive model not just in person, but virtually – giving all campers the benefit of a year-round and lifelong camp experience? In addition, camps still have much work to do to ensure that camp communities recognize and include Jews of Color in every aspect of Jewish communal life – including camp. Camps must prioritize building communities based on integrity, dignity, compassion, and inclusion for all.

## Examples of Reopening

### *Jewish Community Centers*

- [South Florida JCC's have begun reopening](#). Community centers are taking temperature checks, having hand sanitizing stations throughout their gyms, requiring people to wear masks, reconfiguring equipment to allow appropriate social distancing, and more.

### *Synagogues*

- Congregation Sinai's Safer at Sinai Task Force has reviewed new data and has decided not to conduct outdoor services this week. The Task Force will continue to be confident in their safety protocols and look forward to seeing its members at Sinai soon when the trends improve. [Join Shabbat services virtually on Zoom](#). The "New Technology" task force has produced ways to stream services online for worshippers at home. The Task Forces and Executive Committee have concluded Congregation Sinai should celebrate

the Holy Days virtually this year, from Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur through Sukkot and Simchat Torah. [Learn more.](#)

- **Congregation Shalom leadership has made the prudent decision to remain closed to the public through August 2020.** Congregation Shalom leadership are also pursuing a course of action that will allow edifying High Holiday experiences outside the walls of the synagogue while at the same time remaining committed to providing meaningful High Holiday Services by utilizing multi-media. [Watch the video announcement from Rabbi Noah Chertkoff.](#)

### *Schools*

- Dane County's two largest suburban school districts – Sun Prairie and Middleton-Cross Plains – are [poised to start the school year all online](#) following the Madison School District saying last week that is the direction it is taking in response to rising numbers of coronavirus cases locally and nationally. The Sun Prairie School District announced on Monday, July 20 that its students will learn completely online for the first quarter of the 2020-21 school year, and the Middleton-Cross Plains School Board will vote later on Monday on a recommendation from administrators to begin fully online. **Sun Prairie's first quarter will run from Tuesday, September 8 to Monday, November 2 with staff starting in late August to do more training on teaching children remotely.** Sun Prairie students will have whole class and small group online learning on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, students will have independent activities to give staff one day a week to prepare, collaborate and communicate with each other and students and families. **The administration of the Middleton-Cross Plains School District is recommending an all-online first quarter would start Tuesday, September 8. The district would re-evaluate 30 days into the school year if it can move to a hybrid approach,** which uses both in-person and online learning, by the end of the quarter. Similar to Sun Prairie, the Middleton-Cross Plains administration is recommending Wednesdays be used as a preparation day where students continue online learning, but independently and not as teacher-led classes on video chat platforms like Zoom.
- Madison Metropolitan School District students [will attend school virtually until at least Tuesday, November 3.](#) District interim superintendent Jane Belmore announced the plan in a news release on Friday, July 17. The district had been considering three plans: all-virtual, all in-person and a hybrid model. The planning team, which includes the district's leadership team, made the decision early last week and confirmed it after seeing guidance from Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC) that came out on Wednesday, July 15. **The school year will begin no later than Tuesday, September 8, but the exact date is to-be-determined depending on professional development timing.** District officials hope to take lessons from this spring to improve virtual learning, including more face-to-face time and choosing more accessible platforms, for example. Belmore said in the press release that the district "will continue planning for a return to in-person learning as soon as it is determined to be safe to students and staff to do so,"

and will re-evaluate the situation quarterly. Assistant director of health services Sally Zirbel-Donisch said they're hoping PHMDC will soon release metrics for schools to consider in reopening decisions, and that they will follow those. Belmore said the district hopes to provide two to three weeks notice of its decisions for the next quarter. The hybrid model the district has considered would split students into two cohorts, with one group attending in-person Monday and Tuesday and the other Thursday and Friday. On days they weren't in school, students would learn virtually, with Wednesday used for deep cleaning and staff professional development and planning time. Staff will have nine focuses as they plan the start of school. Those include continuing to partner with community agencies to increase childcare, providing teachers and students with expanded training in online education, increasing online support for parents and finalizing the process to determine "limited face-to-face instruction" for students with disabilities and those whose needs cannot be met virtually. The district will also continue providing free meals at its current distribution location. The district's teachers union, Madison Teachers Inc. demanded that the district begin the year virtually, asking the administration to make five commitments:

- All virtual learning for the first quarter of the school year and until health officials report zero new cases for 14 consecutive days;
  - A larger operating referendum on the November ballot;
  - Fund in-person safety supplies and protocols when return is possible;
  - Assure all students have age-appropriate electronic devices and access to the internet prior to Tuesday, September 1;
  - Share leadership with employee representatives and the school community by "being transparent before making decisions on matters of significance."
- Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) [announced last week](#) that it planned to start the school year online-only and ramp up to in-person instruction if and when the coronavirus threat subsided. [Some MPS parents who testified at a school board meeting](#) on Thursday, July 16 said they might put their children in other schools if the district did not open classrooms at the start of the year. After hours of public testimony – much from parents who supported the proposal – [the board approved a \\$90 million plan](#) to start the school year online and gradually return to the classroom once the threat of coronavirus has subsided. **The plan calls for students to return via virtual platforms on Monday, August 17 or Tuesday, September 1, depending on their school calendar. The online phase is projected to last 30 to 45 school days**, after which students would go to a hybrid online/in-person model, and then fully return to classes once that is deemed safe. Several parents were skeptical of MPS' ability to provide quality instruction online, given its [slow and inconsistent ramp-up of virtual learning](#) when schools closed in spring. Parents and board members alike voiced concerns about how the district will serve its most vulnerable students, including children with disabilities, refugees and other English-language learners, and children in extreme poverty. MPS is the state's largest school district, serving about 75,000 children, most of them low-income children of color. About 30,000 Milwaukee students attend private voucher and independent charter schools.
  - Milwaukee schools and universities that have been planning to offer face-to-face instruction this fall may need to shift gears [after the city Health Department enacted](#)

[stricter guidelines](#) for when in-person classes may resume. While MPS has opted to start the school year online, Marquette University, UWM and many of the city's private and independent charter schools had been working under the assumption that they could reopen with precautions, based on the city's [Moving MKE Forward Safely plan](#) posted on the health department's website. An earlier version of that plan showed that schools and universities could reopen during Phase 4, but that document appears to have been updated on June 25 – the day before the city moved into Phase 4, where it stands now. The latest version bars all schools and universities from opening until the city enters Phase 5 – which won't happen until the city meets several benchmarks, including seeing a downward trend in COVID-19's spread. Milwaukee's coronavirus cases – and the percentage of COVID-19 tests coming back positive – have been growing in recent weeks. The Phase 4 order clearly states that all schools and universities are closed for in-person instruction until further notice. The Milwaukee order covers only schools in the city of Milwaukee. [Some suburban schools have already announced](#) that they will reopen for face-to-face instruction, raising concerns that that will exacerbate the already wide achievement and opportunity gaps that exist between Milwaukee students and their more affluent suburban peers. Fourteen campus leaders – including the heads of the UW-Milwaukee, MATC, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Alverno College, Mount Mary University, Cardinal Stritch University and the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design – signed a letter to the city, saying a hybrid online and in-person format is safe and is what students want. It's also financially crucial, they said – both for the city's economic recovery and for the colleges themselves. Lab classes at MATC started in early June with make-up lab courses, with a plan to have some in-person instruction next semester, including training for essential workers in fields such as police, fire, EMT, health care and manufacturing. Marquette officials say detailed fall planning is ongoing, despite a spike in COVID-19 cases in the neighborhood west of campus where many Marquette upperclassmen live off-campus. Marquette officials said they were consulting closely with the city health department and their planning was in line with recommendations from the CDC, local officials and consulting health experts.

## Arts

- The East Side Business Improvement District in the city of Milwaukee [is taking over a parking lot](#) to provide restaurants additional outdoor seating while highlighting the work of local artists. The BID is creating what it calls an art lot, which will be in the city-owned parking lot at 1915 E. North Ave. Situated between Von Trier and Beans & Barley, the lot will be filled with picnic tables painted by local artists. Customers of local dining establishments can bring their to-go orders to the lot. The art lot runs parallel with the city of Milwaukee's Active Streets for Business program. The art lot is not part of the Active Streets program and has no licensing attached to it for serving food or alcohol. Instead, customers can bring their to-go orders from local restaurants to consume outdoors. Physical distancing and masks will be required. The BID intends to offer light programming while making sure it's not too big a congregating area. In a press release announcing the project, the BID stated the concept had support from nearby business

owners and that the art lot will bring together the community, artists, restaurants and shops. **The project is funded in part by a “Small Dollar, Big Impact” grant from AARP worth \$1,000. The BID is looking for additional financial support through a crowdfunding campaign on GoFundMe to pay for the project. The organization aims to raise \$6,500.** From that, \$5,000 will pay local artists, and \$700 will pay for extra garbage collection and sanitization. The BID will put \$650 toward locally purchased art supplies and \$150 toward signage for the lot. Any additional funding will be used for other beautification projects at the art lot, such as plants or more art. **A call for artists is open through Monday, August 6. The BID will take over the parking lot on Monday, August 17, and the lot should be ready to open by Friday, August 21. Weather-dependent, the lot will remain open until Sunday, November 15,** when the Active Streets program ends.

### *Museums and Zoos*

- **[The Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums will reopen](#) on Wednesday, July 29 after temporarily closing during the COVID-19 pandemic.** The museum staff utilized local ordinances and recommendations for its reopening plans. The museums will require visitors and staff members to wear masks and to social distance. The museum will also have signage detailing its protocols and procedures. The museums will also utilize timed reservations to monitor the capacity within the facilities. Capacity will be held to 50%, per city guidelines, but the museum is putting in even more strict protocols. **Visitors are limited to nine people in the same household in 15-minute time periods or 36 people per hour.** In addition, visitors will be restricted to a one-hour time period for the indoor museum space and an hour for the outdoor space. Reservations can be made at each museum’s website. The museums, like other public institutions, also enacted more frequent and enhanced cleaning procedures. **Both museums are open for reservations Wednesday and Friday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. The museums are also open Thursday from 1 – 8 pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and students and free for children 12 and under.**
- The [Milwaukee County Zoo reopened more animal buildings](#) along with concessions and merchandise outlets with 50% capacity on July 18. The hours remain the same from 10 am to 3 pm daily. [Advanced online reservations](#) are required for all visitors and Zoo Pass holders to align with federal and state guidance. All visitors are required to wear masks. High-touch buildings and areas are not open to visitors.
- Nineteen weeks after shutting down because of the coronavirus pandemic, [the Smithsonian Institution is ready to reopen two of its venues](#). **On Friday, July 24, the Smithsonian will welcome visitors to the National Zoo in Washington and the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center,** marking the first time the public can visit the world’s largest museum complex since it closed. Other Smithsonian museums remain temporarily shuttered, with opening dates not yet announced. Beginning on Monday, July 20, the Smithsonian will release 5,000 daily passes for the National Zoo and 1,500 for Udvar-Hazy. Visitors can reserve as many as

six passes up to 30 days in advance by visiting [si.edu/tickets](http://si.edu/tickets) or by calling 800-514-3849. Limited walk-up passes may be available after 1 pm ET. The [National Zoo](#) will be open 8 am – 4 pm ET daily, and the [Udvar-Hazy Center](#) will be open 10 am – 5:30 pm ET daily. Some exhibits, demonstrations and indoor spaces may be closed or have limited capacity. Tours will not be allowed.

### *Restaurants*

- [Milwaukee's restaurant reopening program is seeing limited interest](#). Just one Milwaukee business obtained clearance from the city's health department by the end of last week to operate without a capacity limit.** Last month, [city officials revealed a plan](#) that would allow restaurants and bars to operate at 100% capacity sooner than called for in Milwaukee's phased reopening plan. Under the Moving Milwaukee Forward plan, restaurants and bars are [now limited to 50% capacity](#). **As of last Friday, July 17, the city's health department [received proposed safety plans from 20 businesses seeking to reopen without capacity limits](#).** Shawn Benjamin, the health department's marketing and communications officer said one request had been approved for Hawthorne Coffee. Benjamin said the health department rejected "several" proposed safety plans if criteria were missing, but staff members were working with those businesses to complete the forms. Restaurants and bars that want to participate in the program and open without a capacity limit must demonstrate how they will meet a number of guidelines to prevent spreading COVID-19 in their establishment. For example, restaurants and bars must have a protocol for how to respond if an employee tests positive for the virus or has symptoms consistent with it. They must also conduct a symptom check before employees enter the workplace, enable physical distancing and take other steps to prevent the spread of infection. The assessment tool called for participating businesses to [require their guests to wear face coverings](#) when they are not eating or drinking. Since the assessment tool was released, Milwaukee city officials [implemented a mask mandate](#) that requires face coverings inside all public places. Businesses that receive approval on their safety plan may not necessarily be allowed to operate at full capacity. Although businesses will no longer have to comply with the terms of the Moving Milwaukee Forward plan, their seating capacity could be less than 100% depending on the space and how the restaurant or bar facilitates social distancing.

### *Hotels*

- The Dubbel Dutch Hotel, located at the historic Charles A. Koeffler Jr. House in downtown Milwaukee, [opened recently in the midst of the pandemic](#). Check out this slideshow to get your first look inside. Along with guest ability to rent out the whole hotel, one side or one floor, there are other ways the new hotel is positioned well in the COVID-19 environment. Every room has its own HVAC system. Check-in is touchless with the use of online or mobile check-in. Guests are provided free masks, and employees are required to wear masks and receive health screenings.

- Marriott, the world's largest hotel chain, [will require guests to use facial coverings](#) in all indoor public spaces of its 7,300 hotels worldwide.
- Though many downtown Milwaukee hotels had to temporarily close their doors during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, [the Hyatt Regency remained operational](#), which has positively impacted future operations, general manager Colin Walsh said. The Hyatt Regency was the first large Milwaukee hotel to announce a temporary mass layoff as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, laying off 112 workers in late March. At the hotel's peak season, it normally employs about 200 people – currently the Hyatt Regency has about 70 employees working. The hotel has begun bringing back employees as occupancy continues to slowly increase. For the week of July 5 – 11, occupancy for Milwaukee hotels climbed to 39.4%. Walsh believes that his hotel was able to more effectively implement its protocols and procedures because it remained open throughout the pandemic. The hotel looked to guidance from both the CDC as well as the American Hotel & Lodging Association. The Hyatt Regency has implemented many safety procedures including enforcing social distancing and occupancy levels, contactless options including mobile check-in and enhanced cleaning procedures. Beginning in May, Walsh said the hotel has continued to see steady increases in occupancy both mid-week and over the weekends. A lot of hotel visitors included essential travelers such as frontline workers, doctors and construction workers. Moving forward, the Hyatt Regency is bringing back more front staff and housekeepers.

### *Sports*

- The Big East Conference, of which Marquette University is a member, [announced all 200 fall sport games will be conference only](#). The sports affected are men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, volleyball and field hockey. The Big East has yet to make any changes to plans for the winter and spring sports seasons. In the coming weeks, the Big East will continue to monitor COVID-19 conditions across the country and in Big East communities and will provide further updates on dates and formats as appropriate. The Big Ten Conference, of which the University of Wisconsin-Madison is a member, has already said fall sports teams will not play non-conference opponents this year. The Horizon League, which includes UW-Milwaukee and UW-Green Bay, said it will delay the start of fall sports.
- NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy [announced](#) that fans at games this season will be required to wear face masks.

### *Airlines*

- [United Airlines expanded its mask requirement](#) to include customer service counters, gates and baggage claims as well as its planes.

### *Outdoor Recreation*

This memo is a daily synthesis of critical information and trends about the pandemic that are relevant to the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's work of caring for the needs of the Jewish people. While the information is intended for use by MJF leadership, we are also sharing it with other community leaders.

- [Outdoor recreation continues to be a major driver of tourism impact in Wisconsin](#). The Wisconsin Department of Tourism continues to be focused on its mission of encouraging people to experience Wisconsin while creating strategic imperatives to drive economic impact. **From March to May the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has reported state residence fishing license sales were up 20% over 2019. First time fishing license sales in the state were up 100% in May.** Golf has also seen increased activity. A lot of the programs that the Wisconsin Department of Tourism has been developing combined aspects of both a virtual and in-person travel experiences. Slow TV, which showcased a series of scenic Wisconsin videos with calming and inspiring guided meditation voiceovers, has been particularly successful in engaging viewers. The program, which repackaged existing videos from Travel Wisconsin, generated 1.8 million video views with an average duration of nearly two minutes. The Wisconsin Department of Tourism also saw increased web traffic through its Great Wisconsin Getaway Sweepstakes where visitors could enter for one of a series of 10 different package getaways throughout the state. The Department of Tourism received 71,000 entries and 130,000 individual page views to the website. These programs increased email subscriber acquisitions substantially as well as created a 65% increase in website traffic compared to the same time in 2019. This is particularly successful as 2019 had the Department's best website traffic numbers. These successes are building a long-term opportunity to fuel the recover. Wisconsin is poised well for a strong comeback because of both its outdoor recreation offerings and regional location. Travelers continue to shift toward road trips over flying, and Wisconsin's location between major metropolitan cities creates additional assets to boost tourism to the state.

### *Retail*

- More retailers with southeast Wisconsin locations [will require customers to wear masks while shopping](#), with Meijer, Woodman's, Walgreens, Lowe's and CVS announcing mandates earlier this week and Home Depot announcing its policy on Friday, July 17. With COVID-19 cases on the rise nationwide, retail chains are increasingly requiring customers to wear face coverings in their stores. This week saw a slew of chains announcing such mandates, including Kohl's, Target, Walmart and Kroger, the parent of Pick 'n Save and Metro Market stores in the Milwaukee area. Many of those retailers' stores are already located in places with local face covering requirements. **Home Depot will require masks starting Tuesday, July 22 and Target's policy begins Saturday, August 1.** The policies often exempt people with medical conditions that preclude wearing a face covering and young children.

### **Trends**

- [More people are golfing in Wisconsin](#) during the pandemic this year than last year.
- [Pfizer and BioNTech will supply](#) the U.S. federal government with 100 million doses of coronavirus vaccine under a \$1.95 billion deal. The agreement via the Trump

administration's Operation Warp Speed vaccination effort would allow the government to acquire an additional 500 million doses of the vaccine candidate, provided it has proved effective and secures regulatory approval.

- A federal moratorium that has protected millions of renters from eviction since late March [expires this Friday, July 24](#), leaving millions of people at risk.
- Hong Kong, Australia and Japan [announced record numbers](#) of new cases as they battle resurgences of the virus.
- More than 4 million people in the U.S. [are now known to have been infected with the coronavirus](#). Public health experts have warned that the actual number of people infected by the virus is certainly far higher than the number of reported cases, and could be up to 13 times as high in some regions.
- [Wisconsin could be the next state added to the city of Chicago's travel order](#), which requires travelers entering or returning to Chicago from states that experience a surge in COVID-19 cases to quarantine for a 14-day period. The Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Allisan Arwady issued the order on July 2, and it went into effect just after the Fourth of July weekend on July 6. States originally included in the public health order were Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah. Since then, the city of Chicago added Iowa, Oklahoma and Kansas to the list. In a news conference on Wednesday, July 22, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker pointed to states with high case totals of COVID-19 as well as neighboring states, including Wisconsin, that were starting to see higher percentages of positive cases. Chicago updates its city travel order weekly each Tuesday with new additions taking effect at 12:01 am Friday. **Wisconsin is one of 12 states that has a percentage of daily infections per 100,000 people at 10-15% of the state's population.** On July 14, [the state of Wisconsin also was added to New York state's growing list](#) of those whose visitors must quarantine for 14 days when traveling to New York. Wisconsin joined Minnesota, New Mexico and Ohio. [Governor Tony Evers said he doesn't anticipate](#) establishing a similar rule for travelers coming into Wisconsin.
- **The unemployment rate in the city of Milwaukee fell to 12.8% in June, down from 15.7% in May**, according to new data from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. **The rate for Milwaukee was the highest of any city in Wisconsin in June, followed by Superior (11.9%), West Allis (11.4%) and Racine (11.3%).** Since March 15, **DWD has received more than 782,000 unemployment insurance benefit applications and distributed over \$2.8 billion in benefit claims.** There are still more than 260,000 people out of work across the state. [Nationally, new state unemployment claims rose last week](#) for the first time since early in the pandemic, to over 1.4 million, amid new fears of a downturn. This upturn comes just days before an extra \$600-a-week jobless benefit is set to expire.
- [One-third of U.S. museums are at risk of closing permanently](#) if they do not receive more funding, a new survey finds. With revenue gone from admissions, events, and gift shops, directors at one-third of the 760 museums surveyed by the [American Alliance of Museums](#) expected their institutions to close in the next 16 months without more support or were not sure if they could survive. 56% have laid off or furloughed some staff and the

same proportion have less than six months operating reserves left. Almost two-thirds said once they reopen, they will have to cut back on education, programming, and other services. Many received funds from the federal PPP but said they would need more help.

- The economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic has entered a new phase, [with permanent business closures now outnumbering temporary ones](#), new data shows. As the healthiest businesses have reopened, it's now more likely than not that a closed business is gone for good. Permanent losses are highest in the restaurant sector, both overall and also relative to temporary closures. Retail accounts for another huge swath of the damage, as do smaller but hard-hit sectors, such as beauty, nightlife and fitness. The wave of permanent closures helps explain why, five months into the crisis, the number of Americans filing new unemployment claims [remains stratospherically high](#) by historical terms. Similarly, separate data shows that [the rate of permanent job losers continues to climb](#) even as the headline unemployment rate falls. The losses could mount as states move back into lockdown and federal aid runs out.
- According to a new [MMAC business outlook survey](#), the lingering effects of COVID-19 have dampened Metro Milwaukee companies' expectations of third-quarter business activity. The survey of Milwaukee-area businesses shows that most expect third-quarter sales, profit and employment to fall from year-ago levels. Still, 70% of businesses in the survey indicated that they remain completely viable under current economic conditions, with an additional 15% suggesting they would be viable under current economic conditions for more than 12 months.
- Israel's education minister has made it clear – with a rise in coronavirus cases or not, [schools in the country will open on time](#).
- [Jewish Retailers are navigating revenue loss](#) as pandemic shutdowns have wiped out months of revenue and forced owners to furlough employees. Recent increases in cases have pushed back even the best-laid reopening plans.
- [22,000 nonprofits are projected to close their doors for good](#) in the next 36 months as a result of the economic crisis. That's the median of several scenarios projected by Candid; it assumes the economic downturn will last 24 months. The 22,000 figure represents a failure rate of 7% among the 315,698 U.S.-based nonprofits whose financial data Candid examined in a new study.
- The Monitor Institute by Deloitte has tried to peer into the future in [a new report](#) laying out four scenarios for the nonprofit world to anticipate. Organizations could face a society in which people cooperate as they rebuild or one marked by cascading death rates, a collapsed economy, and social chaos. Resilient organizations are the ones that have a broader array of options and are prepared to shift depending on how the future plays out.
- [Some nonprofits are hailing the PPP as a financial savior](#), while others say it provided only a brief respite from layoffs and other cost-cutting measures. According to new estimates from the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Michigan's Grand Valley State University, the program saved 4.1 million nonprofit jobs, about a third of all nonprofit jobs in the nation. The study estimated that about 40% of eligible nonprofits

received a loan and that nearly two-thirds of eligible nonprofit jobs were protected by PPP funds. The study noted that many smaller nonprofits in particular may have missed out by either not applying for loans or not successfully filling out applications. Religious organizations, followed by elementary and secondary schools, and civic, social, or social-advocacy organizations, [were the most common recipients of PPP loans](#).

- Giving from donor-advised funds [is up sharply this year](#) as fund managers urge donors to support pandemic-related efforts without cutting their usual contributions.
- [Fundraising technology provider Blackbaud was hacked](#) in a ransomware attack in May. The firm paid a ransom to encourage the cybercriminals to destroy the copy of the [stolen data](#) like bank information, credit card, or Social Security information was not stolen, the company said.
- On Tuesday, July 21, [Wisconsin broke a record](#) for the number of positive coronavirus tests in a single day. The Department of Health Services reported that 1,117 people tested positive in one day.
- More than 3.8 million coronavirus infections [have been reported](#) in the United States, and the death toll stands at 138,000. Seven states – Florida, Georgia, Nevada, Kentucky, North Dakota, Arkansas and Montana – reported record highs for coronavirus-related hospitalizations on Monday, July 20, as did Puerto Rico.
- Six months after the first coronavirus case appeared in the United States, [most states are failing to report critical information](#) needed to track and control the resurgence of COVID-19, [according to an analysis](#) released on Tuesday, July 21 by a former CDC chief under the Obama administration. The analysis is the first comprehensive review of COVID-19 data that all 50 states and the District of Columbia are using to make decisions about policies on mask-wearing and opening schools and businesses. With few common standards, the data are inconsistent and incomplete. Some essential information that would show response effectiveness is not being reported at all. Only two states report data on how quickly contact tracers were able to interview people who test positive to learn about their potential contacts. Not a single state reports on the turnaround time of diagnostics tests, the analysis found. [Week-long waits for results](#) hobble efforts to track real-time virus spread and make contact tracing almost irrelevant.
- More than 67,000 Wisconsin businesses [obtained funding through a Small Business Administration program](#) before it ran out of funding. As part of the agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA made available low-interest loans through its Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. In addition, businesses could receive a cash advance on the loan that would not have to be repaid. Although the loan program itself remains open, the SBA announced on July 11 that it had allocated the full \$20 billion Congress appropriated for the advances. State-level data on the program show the agency provided advances to 67,062 businesses in Wisconsin totaling \$252.61 million. Overall, the agency provided advances to about 5.78 million businesses nationwide. At the end of the advance funding, Wisconsin businesses had obtained about 1.16% of all the advances the agency granted and 1.26% of those dollars. Businesses could receive \$1,000 per employee up to a maximum of \$10,000 through the advance funding, according to the SBA. A borrower did not have to be approved for a loan through an EIDL program to receive the advance. The SBA described the advances

as “an interim but vital source of funds while applicants awaited a decision on their loan application.” Businesses can still obtain loans from the SBA to address needs spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic. The loans carry a 3.75% interest rate for small businesses and a 2.75% interest rate for nonprofit organizations. They mature in 30 years, and payments are automatically deferred for one year. The SBA’s most recent state-level data show the agency granted 26,038 loans through the program to Wisconsin borrowers, totaling about \$1.56 billion. Nationally, the agency approved 2.62 million loans totaling \$150.18 billion. The state has received about 1.11% of all the loans granted across the U.S. and 1.04% of the loan dollars.

- Spain’s coronavirus infection rate has tripled since restrictions were lifted at the end of June, [according to health officials. Worldwide](#), there have been more than 14.7 million reported infections and at least 607,000 deaths.
- Following a marathon summit, [leaders of the 27-nation European Union](#) agreed on a vast spending plan to rescue the economies damaged by the pandemic, despite their deep-seated divisions over how much the richer nations should help poorer ones.
- Professional networking site LinkedIn [announced on Tuesday, July 21](#) that it is laying off 960 employees as the hiring slowdown brought on by the pandemic takes a toll. Ad spending, an important source of LinkedIn’s revenue, on the site declined last quarter despite record levels of engagement as millions of Americans lost their jobs and started searching for new ones. The layoffs affect about 6% of LinkedIn’s workforce across its sales and talent acquisition divisions, some of which are “no longer needed” as LinkedIn adapts to the pandemic landscape and tries to reorient its business toward online services. These are the only job cuts the company has planned and it would consider bringing back former staff for any newly created positions.
- Travelers flying to China [will now need to present a negative COVID-19 test](#) before boarding. The guidelines, published on the website of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, are aimed at preventing new coronavirus cases from coming into the country as international air travel increases and the illness continues to spread around the world. The nucleic acid tests must be done at a facility approved by Chinese authorities and taken within five days of travel.
- The Combat Anti-Semitism Movement (CAM) [has called for an objective and internationally recognized standard](#) to assess online anti-Semitic content. CAM, a global grassroots movement of 280,000 individuals and 260 interfaith organizations, is calling on social media companies to enforce their prohibition of content that promotes or condones violence or incites hatred. Far too often, language on social media platforms is a threat to the safety and dignity of Jewish people around the world.
- As COVID-19 uproots businesses and lives across the country, Wisconsin’s essential front-line workers, including thousands of immigrants, [remain among the most vulnerable](#). Many immigrant workers must decide: Stay at home and risk losing a paycheck or go to work but risk the coronavirus. That decision is further complicated because many lack health care coverage. Even legal immigrants living in households with those who remain in the country illegally are ineligible for federal stimulus dollars meant to help families during the economic downturn. In the U.S., an estimated 10.5 million to 12 million immigrants who entered the country illegally are ineligible for federal

aid. Within the state, immigrant workers are concentrated in the manufacturing, health care, food services and agricultural industries, each of which has provided vital services during the pandemic.

- Dr. Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious disease expert, [says the best way to manage the surging coronavirus](#) – and prevent future outbreaks – is by sticking to what he calls the “fundamentals.” Those include the universal wearing of face masks, shutting bars, limiting indoor dining, avoiding crowds and frequent hand washing. Fauci addressed the nation’s governors on Monday, July 20 via videoconference with members of the White House coronavirus task force. Task force coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx urged governors to watch for even the tiniest increase in the percentage of positive cases, saying it means an uptick is coming.
- [The U.S. outbreak continued to worsen over the weekend](#), as average death rates hit new highs in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, South Carolina and Texas, and at least 18 states set records for average weekly infections.
- [Many scientists have come to believe that “superspreaders”](#) – extraordinarily infectious people who may not even know they are sick – are driving the pandemic, spreading “bursts” of the coronavirus to dozens of people in a matter of hours. A single person may have infected nearly 200 others at a college bar in Michigan in the past month, among other incidents around the world that could have huge implications for how we combat the virus.
- [A British group announced promising results](#) for an early trial of its experimental coronavirus vaccine. It’s the latest of several potential vaccines proved to trigger immune responses that attack the virus, after similar announcements by two U.S. companies. Experts caution that these early trials involved a relatively small number of people and short amount of time. The vaccines still have to be proved safe and effective in broader and lengthier studies before they can be mass-produced.
- [According to a new report from Wisconsin Policy Forum](#), Milwaukee may have to take on new strategies to assist its residents and homeowners with home repair loans and grants. Moving forward, the report suggests the city should look into folding more than 20 housing programs across three city agencies under one director or leading organization. The city should also “do more to foster private sector investment.” The report highlights Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett’s initiative to develop or improve 10,000 households but says that plan can also be improved by better coordination between agencies and programs. Within the past decade, the city of Milwaukee has experienced a decrease in homeownership of about 10%, according to a 2018 report from the Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors.
- Antonio Guterres, the secretary general of the United Nations, [raised alarms](#) on Saturday, July 18 about the economic fallout from the pandemic and the ripple effects it could have on poverty and wealth inequality. Mr. Guterres stressed that the pandemic was pushing developing countries to the brink of disaster, and that women, migrants and racial minorities were all likely to suffer disproportionately. One hundred million more people could be pushed into extreme poverty and we could see famines of historic proportions. Mr. Guterres said the U.N. would continue its mission to assist countries in need, but that the pandemic had demonstrated a severe erosion of social safety nets in countries worldwide.

- [A new study in South Korea](#) suggests that school reopenings will trigger more outbreaks. The study of nearly 65,000 people found that children younger than 10 transmit to others much less than adults do, but the risk is not zero. And those between the ages of 10 and 19 can spread the virus at least as well as adults. Experts cautioned that the findings could mean clusters of infection in children of all ages. The director of the Harvard Global Health Institute called the study “one of the best” to date on the issue.
- Face coverings [will be required](#) in Melbourne, Australia’s second-largest city, whenever people leave home, citing a recent increase in cases.
- [Iran started enforcing new restrictions](#) in Tehran on Saturday, July 18, banning large gatherings and closing cafes, gyms and some other facilities, as coronavirus cases surge in what health officials say is even worse than the first wave that hit the capital in March. The country has reported more than 270,000 confirmed cases, the 10<sup>th</sup> highest in the world, but President Hassan Rouhani said that 30 million to 35 million people are likely to be exposed to the disease in the coming months.
- Thailand, a rare success story in fighting the virus, has recorded fewer than 3,240 cases and 58 deaths, [but its tourism-dependent economy has been ravaged](#). Some migrant workers from neighboring Myanmar and Cambodia are stuck with no wages from their jobs as hotel cleaners, kitchen hands and food stall operators, and the Thai tourism and sports ministry estimates that 60% of hospitality businesses could close by the end of the year.
- Authorities in Britain have temporarily suspended [the release of the daily toll of deaths attributed to coronavirus](#), in response to a request from the government after it raised concerns about accuracy. The authorities in England had been including all people who tested positive for the virus in their [daily count](#), regardless of the cause of death.
- European Union leaders [agreed to go back to the negotiating table](#) on Sunday, July 19 after two long, difficult days of talks during which they have been trying to bridge differences over how to distribute and oversee a radical stimulus plan that would send 750 billion euros, or about \$840 billion, into the bloc’s economies to push them out of the recession the pandemic has sunk them in.
- [Coronavirus cases are rising in 40 states across the country](#). The country, logging a seven-day average of 65,790 new cases a day, has more confirmed cases per capita than any other major industrial nation.
- Several school districts around the U.S. announced plans this week to start the academic year online, [including Los Angeles](#). More than 80% of California’s population lives in counties that would currently not qualify for schools to reopen based on their surging caseloads and hospitalization rates. The rules would require most students to wear masks in classrooms and force schools that do hold in-person classes to shut down if enough students or employees test positive for the virus.
- The Food and Drug Administration [issued its first emergency approval](#) for pooled testing, a method that allows for much faster tracking of new infections. The agency gave emergency use authorization to Quest Diagnostics to test combined samples from up to four people. If the pooled test is negative, then all four are in the clear. If it is positive, then each sample would be individually tested to determine who was infected. The method has been used to test for the virus in China, Germany, Israel and Thailand.
- Wisconsin is [still struggling to keep up with millions of phone calls and hundreds of thousands of claims](#) from residents who have lost work amid the coronavirus pandemic. The state Department of Workforce Development (DWD) received about 109,000 phone

calls during the second week of July, a giant drop from nearly 1 million calls coming in when a wave of layoffs at the start of the outbreak in Wisconsin hit. The department has tripled its staff, but unemployed claimants are still reporting waiting for hours on hold and problems reaching anyone at all. Call center employees are trained only to help with filing claims, not resolving those that remain unpaid. DWD has addressed nearly 4 million unemployment claims in four months – a massive increase over the 1.6 million claims the agency processed in all of 2019. Nearly 549,000 weekly claims are still waiting to be paid out, needing some sort of adjudication.

- A new form of unemployment assistance is being denied to Wisconsinites with disabilities – and [Wisconsin is the only state in the nation](#) denying those benefits to its disabled residents during the pandemic. Because of a law passed by lawmakers in 2013, people who have disabilities and receive payments provided through Social Security Disability Insurance are barred from receiving the new federally funded unemployment benefits for people who have lost work due to the virus outbreak. The consequences could be severe.
- The city of Milwaukee [could keep certain restrictions on capacity for businesses and gathering sizes](#) in place for a bit longer to try and decrease COVID-19 cases. The city is currently in phase 4 of its Moving Milwaukee Forward reopening plan. The city's health department said it would reassess its phase 4 gating criteria on Friday, July 17 to determine if the city's COVID-19 situation was stable enough to move into the phase 5 of the reopening. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett said conversations with city health commissioner Jeanette Kowalik led him to believe she anticipates the city will remain in phase 4 for some time. The city this week put into effect a mask mandate that requires everyone older than 3 to wear a face covering while in buildings open to the public. Masks are also required in outdoor public spaces when people are within six feet of a person who is not part of their family or household. Business owners would be allowed to refuse entry or service to anyone who does not comply with the rule. City officials could shut down a business found violating the policy.
- Fourteen members of the Milwaukee Common Council requested the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin [to reverse its June decision](#) to allow Wisconsin utilities to begin disconnecting power to customers who have fallen behind on payments. The letter – dated Thursday, July 16 and spearheaded by Alderman Khalif J. Rainey – cites the PSC's move to void the move by Governor Tony Evers to suspend power disconnections until later this month, as well as the dire economic situation many are facing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Governor Evers' earlier decision to suspend disconnections through Saturday, July 25** was made in the good-faith belief that by the end of this month some end to the economic devastation that has been brought to this State by the COVID-19 pandemic would be in sight.
- The ZIP code that includes downtown Milwaukee [saw the greatest number of small business loans approved](#) through the federal Paycheck Protection Program compared to all other areas of southwest Wisconsin. More than 1,000 PPP loans were approved for the 53202 ZIP code. About three-quarters of the loans approved for that area were for less than \$150,000. The operators of full-service restaurants were approved for more small business loans than any other type of business in Wisconsin. [Lending data show](#)

full-service restaurants obtained more than 3,000 of the approximately 85,460 PPP loans approved for businesses in the state. About 88% of those loans were for less than \$150,000. [Read more](#) on how the PPP operated in Wisconsin.

- Potawatomi Hotel & Casino is [laying off 1,600 employees](#) from its Milwaukee facility due to a decline in tourism business due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Potawatomi had 2,600 employees before shutting down in March. About 1,000 people were brought back to work for the casino's reopening in June. The remaining employees will be laid off starting Saturday, August 15.
- An Oak Creek man [pleaded guilty to federal charges](#) and admitted he vandalized a Racine synagogue to support a neo-Nazi hate group. Yousef O. Barasneh spray-painted swastikas and anti-Semitic words on Beth Israel Sinai Congregation in Racine last September and plotted other acts of vandalism against minority residents with the white supremacist group "The Base," according to a plea agreement.
- [A COVID-19 plasma trial at UW-Madison](#) shows treatment helped 94% of severely ill patients avoid ICU or ventilation. The university also launched three new COVID-19 clinical trials and began considering offers to host another nine. Since the coronavirus clinical trials began, 80% of all UW Health patients with COVID-19 have been enrolled in one. About 67% of those with life-threatening illness recovered sufficiently to have their breathing tubes removed. The results led researchers to conclude that plasma helps patients avoid mechanical ventilation, though "it appears to be most beneficial when administered early in the course of the disease." In another trial, the first two UW Health patients were treated with a drug called ruxolitinib that is being tested on some of the most critically ill, those facing a life-threatening overreaction of the immune system. Both patients recovered sufficiently to be discharged from the hospital. The encouraging results came on a week when UW Health announced that it will host three new trials testing cocktails of lab-manufactured antibodies against COVID-19.
- An increasing number of parents are buying playsets, trampolines and other equipment – [sales are up sharply over last year](#).
- [Many families in Wisconsin are 'close to becoming homeless'](#) as effects of the pandemic continue, and financial help dries up. As of Friday, July 17, approximately \$3.5 million in assistance has gone out to just over 2,100 households across the state. The housing crisis predates the pandemic, but the shutdown has pushed more Wisconsin renters to the edge of stability. Applicants can apply for up to \$3,000 of assistance to pay past-due rent or make future payments and security deposits and must demonstrate how the pandemic negatively affected them. The Social Development Commission is requiring landlords, as a condition of accepting the funds from the state, to sign an agreement stating they will not evict their tenants. Those struggling to pay rent are likely struggling to fund other needs. The Social Development Commission has received \$6.4 million from the state to be used to help renters in Milwaukee County and \$400,000 to be used for renters in Washington and Ozaukee counties. Milwaukee and Dane counties have each put in \$10 million toward their local agencies to help with the housing issue. The rental crisis is not limited to metro areas – the Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP) has also seen a great demand for rental assistance in a more rural part of the state. The agency received a total of \$585,000 to be distributed to

residents in Grant, Green, Lafayette, Iowa and Richland counties. The Lakeshore Community Action Program received nearly \$630,000 to assist renters in Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Door counties.

### Online Resources

- From *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, [read an opinion piece](#) on how safely reopening the U.S. will require reinvesting in public spaces. The article recommends that as communities around the country reopen this summer, public spaces should be at the top of philanthropy investment lists. Intentionally welcoming, spacious, and well-appointed parks, well-maintained hiking and walking trails, robustly programmed libraries and community centers, and even wider sidewalks may be among the most important investments we can make to recover. Public spaces are one of the few places left that bring together people of diverse backgrounds – and with no price of admission. Numerous studies show how access to parks and green spaces boost physical and mental health. Public spaces are also an integral part of supporting the public, which allows small businesses to flourish.
- From *The Jewish News of Northern California*, [an opinion article recommends](#) that Jewish organizations that are thinking of reopening should listen to the science and follow Jewish values as they make their decisions.
- [A new survey](#) sheds light on what Jewish families are thinking about when the right time is to return to in-person programming. Parents of existing BBYO members were surveyed to understand what protocols and guidelines need to be in place to make them comfortable sending their teens back to in-person programming. BBYO staff were also interested in learning how families were financially impacted by COVID-19 and whether that might affect their ability to pay for programming in the future. Most of the survey questions were asked in a broad way in the hopes that other Jewish organizations could use the results to help with their own programming decisions. Survey results show:
  - What We Learned: Overall, 72% of parents surveyed still aren't ready for their teens to return to in-person programming – and they aren't sure when they will be. In addition, just over half of the families who are willing to send their children to in-person programming, are willing to host these programs in their homes because of COVID-19 health concerns. Many parents remarked in their comments that even when they do send their teens back, they would prefer programming take place in outdoor spaces only, at least in the beginning.
  - Safety Measures: There were four safety measures parents wanted to see in place at in-person events: participants and staff required to wear their own masks; hand sanitizer made available; temperature checks conducted for participants; and strict 6-foot social distancing guidelines maintained for all. The capacity of events was less of an issue for parents and very few felt that COVID-19 testing should be required.
  - Financial Considerations: A majority of families polled (54%) have been impacted financially by COVID-19 either by income reductions or because of a layoff or

furlough, which will have a significant impact on families being able to afford programs, especially those with a higher price point. Nearly half of families said it is very likely or likely their financial situation would affect their ability to pay for multi-week summer experiences and 38% said it would affect their ability to pay for two-week teen program or training experiences. Lower priced activities are less impacted with only 11% of families saying it would affect programs like a movie night or bowling event. In addition, while 75% of parents want BBYO to provide a variety of virtual and in-person programming, only 35% say they are willing to pay for virtual content.

- Looking Ahead: With nearly 1,400 parent responses to the survey, BBYO is using this feedback to help inform reopening criteria and planning procedures. To start with, BBYO plans to hold many of their programs outdoors and in small group settings, perform temperature checks at all events, provide the necessary sanitizing equipment and materials to participants, and explore new pricing models for virtual and in-person experiences to accommodate families who have been impacted financially by the current situation.
- [Read Mark Wilf and Eric D. Fingerhut's article](#) featured in *The Jerusalem Post* on how the core organizations of Jewish life responded to the global pandemic with speed and generosity.