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 or 414-390-5733.

Local Resources

- Governor Tony Evers declared a new public health emergency in Wisconsin due to a recent surge in cases among young people and issued a new face covering order effective immediately. Review Executive Order #90 and Emergency Order #1. Both orders are effective immediately and will expire after sixty days (Saturday, November 21) or with a subsequent superseding order. The governor previously declared a public health emergency under Executive Order #82, which remains in effect. With today’s new face covering order, Wisconsin residents ages five and older are required to wear a face covering when they are indoors or in an enclosed space with anyone outside their household or living unit.

- TestUp MKE, an initiative to help inform Milwaukeeans about coronavirus testing has officially launched its website. The goal of the website is to create a trusted space for anyone in the community to get information about COVID-19 testing as well as make information accessible and easy to understand. The site is available in five languages: English, Spanish, Burmese, Hmong and Arabic. The site offers information such as testing locations and answers to FAQs for each step of the process. The site also has an assessment tool to let you know whether or not you need a test.

- Milwaukee’s Public Service Commission (PSC) voted to extend the utility cutoff moratorium until Sunday, November 1. That date is also the beginning of the annual winter moratorium, which lasts until April 15. This effectively extends the moratorium for the next seven months. However, the moratorium for shutting off water service is set to end on November 1, and the PSC will have to approve any cold-weather disconnection plans.

- Review the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce’s Health & Safety Toolkit, a new set of easy-to-navigate guidelines designed to help businesses handle COVID-19 positive tests and devise strategies for employee and customer safety. These guidelines were put together by experts from a wide range of organizations including the Medical College of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, local public health officers, healthcare networks and the Milwaukee 7 Economic Development Partnership.
• Small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs are invited to register for the Lieutenant Governor’s Small Business Academy, taking place online from Tuesday, October 6 – Thursday, October 8. Learn more and register.

• The Urban Ecology Center (UEC) at Riverside Park is extending summer camp into the fall for children from grades K5 to grade 6. The program will help campers foster a deep connection to nature through hands-on adventures and healthy outdoor fun. Fall Camp runs Monday, September 21 – Friday, October 30. During the Morning Session (8 am – 12 pm) campers will engage with UEC educators as they assist with virtual learning facilitation and other educational activities. Camp staff will coordinate with your child’s school schedules to support their virtual learning efforts. During the Afternoon Session (12 pm – 4 pm) campers will engage with UEC educators in the outdoors as they explore the autumn feel of Riverside Park’s outdoor classroom and connect to the natural world. Families interested in registering may contact landers@urbanecologycenter.org. Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis – apply.

National Resources

• The ADL has created a collection of Voting Rights Resources letting people know how, where and when they can vote.

• A survey in late April 2020 captured the ingenuity of the camp industry as well as the challenges camps have faced due to the ongoing pandemic. This research snapshot discusses the early effects of a pandemic on camp programming and development.

Agency Resources

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 and access SHOFAR resources to get help now. Contact JFS Community Advocate Breanna West at 414-225-1374 for more information.

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• 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.

Webinars
Please see the Milwaukee Jewish Community Calendar for the most current information on upcoming events.

• Wednesday, September 23
  o Join the Milwaukee Public Library and the Department of Neighborhood Services for Rent for Success, a free 2-hour tenant training program designed to educate and empower renters to make safe, healthy choices in their housing, and to provide helpful resources if anything goes wrong with an arrangement at 4 pm CT. Registration is preferred, but not required – register here or contact Herlyn Roberson at 414-286-8122.

• Tuesday, September 29
  o Join the Milwaukee Public Library for Technology Tuesdays at 3 pm for an overview of how LinkedIn allows you to create and promote workplace skills, experience, and successes – register.

Trends
• With the start of the school year, Wisconsin is seeing a surge in cases, especially among young people. 18 to 24-year-olds have a case rate five times higher than any other age group. This significant increase has only occurred within the past month and appears to be driven by in-person social gatherings. Last week, eight Wisconsin cities were listed among the top twenty cities in the U.S. where COVID-19 cases were rising fastest, and six of those eight cities have UW-System campuses. Wisconsin is now experiencing unprecedented, near-exponential growth of the COVID-19 pandemic with the daily number of new cases rising from 678 on August 31 to 1,791 on Monday, September 21, a 2.6-fold increase in three weeks. Wisconsin ranked fourth in the nation for confirmed cases of COVID-19 last week, as the state topped 2,000 cases in a day for the first time.
• More than 50 businesses have been warned by the city of Milwaukee for violating the terms of its phased pandemic reopening plan. The warnings pertain to violations of the mask order, being over capacity or a lack of physical distancing.