



WisCon Words of Wisdom

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WI COVID-19 by the Numbers

Total Positive Cases	1,473,809
Total Deaths	13,001
Total Individuals Hospitalized	61,189

[DHS's Wisconsin Summary Data](#)

Numbers Updated 05/31/2021

WI Vaccine Distribution by the Number of Doses as of 05/30/2022

Total Administered	9,524,671
Johnson & Johnson	346,416
Moderna	3,590,025
Pfizer	5,588,230

Check out the [latest data about Wisconsin's progress!](#)

Upcoming Webinar Topics

COVID-19 Update	6/6
Forklift Safety	6/13
Trench Safety	6/20
HazCom: Secondary Labeling	6/27

Sign up [here](#) for weekly webinar reminders! Click [here](#) to view previous webinars!

Food Manufacturing LEP

As of April 19, 2022, a new local emphasis program (LEP) for the [Food Manufacturing Industry](#) was approved and is in effect within the OSHA area offices throughout the state of Wisconsin. Industries covered within the LEP include the following NAICS codes:

- 3114xx – Fruit and Vegetable Preserving and Specialty Food Manufacturing,
- 3115xx – Dairy Product Manufacturing, and
- 3116xx – Animal Slaughtering and Processing.

This LEP is intended to encourage employers within these industries to take appropriate action to identify, reduce, and eliminate hazards associated with exposure to machine hazards during production activities, and off-shift sanitation, service, and maintenance tasks. Through this LEP, Wisconsin Area offices also hope to protect some of the most vulnerable workers as seasonal and temporary labor is a big percentage of the food manufacturing workforce.

Wisconsin area offices plan to reach employers in this industry through outreach, education, training, and enforcement. OSHA also intends to conduct outreach with applicable professional associations, local safety councils, apprenticeship programs, local hospitals and occupational health clinics. Outreach activities including letters to employers, training sessions, information sharing, new releases, and other public service announcements will continue at least through July 19, 2022, when enforcement activities may begin. (Story continues on Page 2)

Spotlight Corner—Tasha Heaton

Tasha started her career with WisCon in July of 2016 as a health-focused field consultant. In addition to her field work, she serves as our current Talent and Development Coordinator which includes mentoring student interns. Tasha has a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP). As she is not originally from Wisconsin, she likes that her work lets her travel throughout the state. She also enjoys spending time at home with her cats, dogs, and husband, planning her next vacation, and reading.



WisCon at AIHce EXP 2022

Members of WisCon attended AIHA's annual conference, AIHce EXP 2022, in the heart of Nashville, TN. This conference provides an outstanding opportunity for occupational health and safety professionals and those in related fields to come together and learn about fundamental practices plus new and exciting topics that may impact our work. Not only did many of our consultants attend, some of us were selected to present.

George Gruetzmacher, Kelli Rush-Humber, and Robert Vercellino were selected and presented a session titled "A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Implementation of Respiratory Protection Programs in Healthcare Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic." The session focused on the COVID-19 Consulting project that they spearheaded. The following is a synopsis of their presentation:

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states wearing filtering facepiece respirators is an effective strategy for protecting healthcare workers from airborne pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2. This recommendation significantly impacted health care facilities by requiring implementation of a new, regulatory-compliant respiratory protection program (RPP) to protect employees during the pandemic. The pandemic highlighted the critical need for appropriate personal protective equipment. However, fit-testing, supply shortages and lack of understanding made meeting the RPP requirement extremely difficult. The WisCon group at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Healthcare-Associated Infections Prevention Program to solve this problem. Experts in IH, infection prevention, logistics, and procurement worked to provide fit-testing kits and educational resources for healthcare providers. DHS procured bulk supplies that WisCon built into fit-testing kits, including one-time use test hoods to prevent COVID-19 transmission during the fit testing process. Online training curriculum for program administrators and a RPP template that met regulatory standards were developed. This presentation will describe the importance of using a multidisciplinary approach when trying to address barriers in protecting the health and safety of healthcare workers."



AIHce EXP 2023 will take place in Phoenix, AZ next year. To learn more, visit <https://www.aihceexp.org/>.

Photo depicts WisCon Consultants presenting at AIHce EXP 2022. Sitting: George Gruetzmacher and Kelli Rush-Humber. Standing: Robert Vercellino. Photo by Ernie Stracener.

Food Manufacturing LEP (Continued)

Enforcement activities under this LEP may include the inspection and review of production operations, and working conditions, injury and illness records, safety and health programs, and hazardous energy control methods to aid in the identification of workplace hazards.

More information on this LEP and other LEPs within Region 5 are available on OSHA's website, [Directives – Regional LEP](#).

If you have questions about how the LEP may impact your business, WisCon is here for you. Our purpose is provide assistance to small and medium sized private sector employers, upon request. Businesses targeted by an LEP, such as this one, or other OSHA initiatives receive top scheduling priority.

WisCon intends to provide more information in one of our upcoming [weekly webinar](#) programs.

Wisconsin Safety and Health Consultation Program

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WSLH COVID-19 Consulting

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