



SPORTS

Coronavirus Brings Races To A Standstill

The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in a temporary timeout for athletic events in Wisconsin. There's been a cascade of cancelations for spring marathons and shorter distance races which have left organizers scrambling. Many are offering virtual races instead. This year's racing season got off to a false start as events around the country were delayed or canceled because states issued stay-at-home orders limiting crowd sizes. Wisconsin has a prohibition on groups of 10 or more. That meant the Milwaukee Marathon was a no-go. Lora Daley was ready to run but didn't. "I knew that I had trained for it, and I had this mixed reaction but ultimately it was relief because I didn't want to feel peer pressure to do something I knew probably was not safe," explained Daley, 46, who lives in Grayslake, Illinois. Organizers of the canceled Milwaukee Marathon offered an alternative: a virtual race. It allowed people to use a fitness app to time themselves as they ran the course. But not with other people. It was a solution that appealed to some participants, but not all. "I thought, 'I don't know that I want to be out there by myself running 26 miles, socially distanced, right? And not able to access help or running in a crowd like I normally would be if I got hurt. And then exposing myself to a virus,'" said Daley. But it isn't just participants that lose out when an event doesn't go off as planned. "We've already lost a lot of money. We've furloughed all our employees. We're struggling financially, absolutely. Just like other companies are. It's devastating," said Ryan Richards, vice president of Race Day Events in Madison.

Wisconsin golf to reopen April 24 with a few restrictions

After golf was shut down March 25 by Governor Tony Evers' stay-at-home order, the state's courses can allow players to tee off starting April 24, with several considerable stipulations intended to help keep players and staff safe during the coronavirus pandemic. Evers made the announcement as he extended the state's Safer at Home order to May 26, with several modifications including the allowance of golf. Until April 24, Wisconsin remains one of 16 states where golf is shuttered, according to a National Golf Foundation report. The golf allowance came on the heels of a Change.org petition that accumulated nearly 67,000 signatures before Evers' announcement. Many of Wisconsin's courses were seasonally closed already, especially in the northern reaches of the state, and the new allowance comes just as the season typically kicks off toward the end of April for several top-ranked courses.

COMMERCIALS

There are everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases. Wash your hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Stay home when you are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects. For more information, visit [CDC DOT GOV SLASH COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/covid-19). This message brought to you by the National Association of Broadcasters and this station.



Here at McDonald's, We'll be taking your order in the Drive Thru at this time because the safety of our communities and people is our top priority. So that just like we have for the last 65 years, we can still be here to take your order. So while things keep changing, we can still be here to take your order. So whether it's a Happy Meal, 20-piece McNuggets, a Big Mac, or all three we can still be here to take your order. See you in the Drive Thru. I'm lovin' it.

NATIONAL

On 25th Anniversary Of Oklahoma City Bombing, Officials Find Lessons For Today

On April 19, 1995, the United States experienced what was — up to that point — the most deadly act of terror ever perpetrated on American soil, when a right-wing extremist detonated a truck bomb next to the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. It's been 25 years since 168 people — including 19 children — lost their lives when thousands of pounds of fertilizer, fuel and other chemicals exploded and ripped a gaping hole in the building's facade. On its 25th anniversary, the city's mayor, David Holt, marked the anniversary by saying the way Oklahoma City responded to that tragedy can inform how the nation responds to the coronavirus pandemic. "COVID-19, 9/11, the bombing, these are all similarly shared experiences along this journey we call life," Holt said in a commemorative video that aired on local stations. "In the wake of such events, what matters is that we take lessons from them and emerge wiser and more prepared to face similar challenges ahead." The bombing, carried out by Timothy McVeigh, began with dehumanization, Holt said. "The journey to such an act begins with thoughts. Those thoughts become words, and like a virus, those words are heard by others," he continued. "Soon, one carrier becomes many, and an ecosystem is created where ideas once considered absurd are treated with credibility." Holt said he sees similarities in the current political climate. "If you are not hearing those echoes again in our current political discourse, I ask you to listen harder," Holt said. "We all have an obligation to speak up and to reject words of dehumanization, words that divide us, words that cast others as our enemy. Right now, I hear such words coming out of the mouths of some of the most prominent people in our country." "Let this place be a reminder," Holt said. "We must have better conversations. We must reject dehumanization. We must love one another." In most years, the Oklahoma City community gathers together where the Murrah building once stood, observing moments of silence just after 9 a.m., when the truck bomb was detonated. This year, the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum was off limits to mourners, as the video remembrance took the place of an in-person ceremony.



How To Help The People Who (Used To) Help You

Across the country, millions of people are either out of work or working a lot less, especially in service jobs that make up a huge share of the economy. That includes waiters, bartenders, rideshare drivers, nannies, domestic workers, barbers and hairdressers — the list goes on. At the same time, many people under orders to stay at home are doing more of their own cooking and cleaning and getting family members to cut their hair. While there are a number of charities aiding those in need, some people are trying to offer direct assistance to the people and small businesses that used to serve them. They're ordering takeout from restaurants they used to frequent, buying gift cards and tipping extra. But these options don't guarantee workers or businesses will recoup all they've lost, nor do they always help those who need it most, according labor advocates and ethicists. "Those things are wonderful when we can do them," says Erica Smiley, executive director of Jobs With Justice, which advocates for employment security. "But they are really just short term solutions." So let's say you want to help the workers or small businesses you're unable to patronize now because you're stuck at home. Where do you start? With your hair stylist? Your nanny? What about all the Lyft or Uber drivers who have given you rides? Rather than trying to make everyone around you whole, focus on the people you have depended on the most, says Ann Skeet of the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University. "If you have been relying on somebody to come in and do a high-touch, personal level of service in your home, you want to maintain a good, long-term relationship with them," she says.

NIH Launches Effort To Speed Up Development Of COVID-19 Treatments

In efforts to help speed up the development of potential treatment options and a vaccine for COVID-19, the National Institutes of Health on Friday announced a new public-private research partnership. The new initiative will be spearheaded by the NIH but also include the Food and Drug Administration, other parts of the federal government and a list of 16 companies that includes some of the biggest players in the pharmaceutical industry. Among the companies participating in the effort are Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Merck. "We need to have all hands on deck from every sector to speed up the process of identifying those treatments that are going to work and to get the vaccines also developed, tested, to make sure they're safe and effective in the maximum possible speed," said Dr. Francis Collins, director of the NIH. The announcement comes after President Trump and public health officials on Thursday unveiled new guidelines for states to begin reopening the country. Health experts say that in order to safely do that, there needs to be more testing, contact tracing and better drugs to treat COVID-19. Ultimately, for things to truly return to normal, an effective vaccine is needed. Collins said there are already two vaccines in phase one trials, and behind that, a series of more than 40 other vaccines being developed as well. But he cautioned that the public should expect failures along the way. "Somewhere in there may be a winner, even if most of them are losers," he said.



Workers' Advocate Says South Dakota Pork Plant Delayed Action On Coronavirus

A pork processing plant in Sioux Falls, S.D., has become a hot spot of coronavirus transmission and now workers and their advocates say the company failed to communicate the risks of possible exposure and waited too long to implement safety measures. At least 634 employees at the Smithfield Foods facility have tested positive. The facility normally employs 3,700 people, but has stopped meat processing indefinitely after requests by the city's mayor and South Dakota's governor. In a statement, Keira Lombardo, the company's executive vice president for corporate affairs and compliance, outlined 17 steps Smithfield has taken to protect workers, including adding hand sanitizing stations, enhanced cleaning and installing plexiglass barriers at its plants. But she said the company is suffering from the same supply chain shortages as the rest of the country when it comes to personal protective equipment. "We are doing everything in our power to help protect our team members from COVID-19 in the workplace," said Lombardo. " We have been working to get these measures implemented for many many weeks, all day, every day." Taneeza Islam is the founder of the South Dakota Dream Coalition, an immigrant advocacy group working with Smithfield employees. She says some workers believed managers knew there were coronavirus cases before any were reported.

STATE

Wisconsin's Rural EMS Providers Scramble To Keep Responders Safe

Rob Puls coordinates paramedics for Great Divide Ambulance, which staffs four ambulances around the clock in the 15,000-person Bayfield county along Lake Superior. The four vehicles cover around 730 square miles, an area three times the size of Chicago. After the county's first case of COVID-19, he said: "I think everybody up here was shocked, because they thought we were rural and removed." Like other health care and essential workers, Puls' crews have tried to stay safe during the pandemic. They now wear gloves and a face mask to every call. And when a patient has COVID-19 symptoms, they wear N-95 respirators, gowns and face shields. When Puls calls his supplier he hears: "Don't even ask us for protective equipment, because we have none." Protective gear shortages are growing more acute across Wisconsin. Dozens of hospitals have less than a week of PPE on hand, according to the Wisconsin Hospital Association. The state Department of Health Services has issued guidance on conserving supplies. Unlike cities, which have full-time emergency medical responders at the local fire department, Wisconsin's rural emergency services typically rely on a patchwork of funding sources and volunteer labor. Rural services face challenges in paying for these crucial supplies — when they can find them. Wisconsin requires local governments of a certain size to offer fire services, but there is no requirement that they provide emergency medical services. Volunteers make up nearly 40% of Wisconsin's emergency medical workforce, and "almost all rural services rely on volunteers to some degree," a Wisconsin Department of Health Services spokeswoman said. "If I don't keep my people healthy, we're not going to have anybody to respond to a call," he said.



Drop-Offs, Drive-Ups & Digital Classrooms: How Wisconsin Schools Are Handling Coronavirus

When Gov. Tony Evers announced schools would close to avoid spreading the coronavirus, districts around Wisconsin started scrambling to prepare students to learn from home, and to prepare schools to continue to provide food and other resources in new ways. Most districts started by surveying families. Even once districts had a better picture of what families needed, shifting guidelines from state and local officials and medical professionals meant they sometimes had to make new plans. The Green Bay Area School District had books from Scholastic shipped directly to students' homes, including books in other languages for its English-language learning students. Districts across the state are handing out printed packets of schoolwork to parents who come to food distribution sites, uploading them to school websites or mailing them directly to families. Districts have set up food distribution sites to provide food for families who need it. They typically bag up a breakfast and lunch, and drop it in the backseat or trunk of families' cars to minimize contact. Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) Superintendent Keith Posley said Milwaukee schools may consider parent input in whether students move on to the next grade, as well how students were doing up until schools closed, or incorporating progress they've made in learning from home. His district, like others around the state, is still working out how to assess students. "Everything is on the table," he said. "We're talking about what we're going to do around summer school, what credit attainment looks like, what class completion looks like."

Study: Human Waste Continues To Contaminate Private Wells In Southwest Wisconsin

Human waste continues to be a prominent source of contamination in private wells located in southwestern Wisconsin, according to a new study. The latest data from the Southwestern Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology (SWIGG) study found microbes from human feces in 12 of the 34 wells that were sampled. All of the sampled wells had previously tested positive for contamination in an earlier phase of the study. The SWIGG study started in 2018 and has tested hundreds of private wells in Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties. The study's first phase tested wells for bacteria or nitrates, a compound linked to a variety of health problems. The first round found 42 percent of wells exceeded health standards, while a second round found 27 percent were contaminated. Now in the second phase of the study, the latest round of water samples were collected in November to help researchers identify the sources of contamination. A total of 27 wells contained fecal contamination, with some wells testing positive for more than one type of microbe. Seven wells contained microbes from cattle feces and three wells had pig fecal microbes. The latest testing also found pathogens associated with gastrointestinal illness in 16 of the sampled wells. But researchers cautioned the health risk to the well owners was not known and can vary based on the specific pathogen, its concentration, and the health of the person that drinks the water. Samples taken in August and April also found human fecal microbes were the most common sources of contamination, with 30 wells testing positive in the first round and 14 wells in the second round.



Community Action Programs Fighting A New 'War On Poverty'

Some nonprofits that traditionally help those in poverty have expanded the definition of poverty to help more people through the COVID-19 pandemic. Community Action Programs (CAPs) use federal, state and local funds to help people with challenges like employment, housing and food insecurity. Most were created by the federal government in the 1960s as a response to President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty." Each CAP in Wisconsin has assistance programs tailored to the needs of the region they serve, including during the coronavirus pandemic. " We also have a pretty good indication that food pantries have seen a spike," said Brad Paul, executive director of WISCAP, a statewide organization that supports the regional programs. "While COVID-19 has brought new stresses and increased demand, many current needs are consistent with what CAPs have long provided. That is, housing assistance, emergency food, child care and employment assistance," he said. "So, in some respects it is more a question of reconfiguring relief efforts and responding to the heightened demand. And, this is a considerable challenge," Paul added. Couleecap Inc., based in Westby, provided financial help with things like housing and transportation to more than 21,000 people living in poverty in Crawford, Vernon, Monroe and La Crosse counties last year. But in the last month, the agency has been contacted by a different type of clientele. "We see people coming to us for help that may have not ever come to Couleecap or any other social service agency," said executive director Hetti Brown.

WEATHER

- **Today:** A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 5pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. Breezy, with a southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.
- **Tonight:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8pm, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 8pm and 2am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. West wind around 15 mph becoming northwest after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.
- **Sunday:** Sunny, high near 46. Northwest wind around 15 mph, gusts as high as 25 mph.
- **Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, low around 35. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable in the evening.
- **Monday:** A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 4pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. South wind 5 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.
- **Monday Night:** Showers and thunderstorms likely before 3am, then a chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Southwest wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.



INTERNATIONAL

In South Korea, A Growing Number Of COVID-19 Patients Test Positive After Recovery

A growing number of recovered COVID-19 patients are relapsing in South Korea, raising new questions and concerns after the country successfully flattened the curve. Korean health authorities had identified 163 patients who tested positive again after a full recovery. The number more than doubled in about a week, up from 74 cases on April 9. Those patients — just over 2% of the country's 7,829 recovered patients — are now back in isolation. According to Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data on Friday, the age and regional distribution of relapse cases are largely in line with that of the total infections. To find out reasons for relapse, South Korean health authorities are running a range of tests and vetting various scenarios. The World Health Organization said last week it is investigating. While a fuller analysis will take at least a few weeks, early findings suggest there can be more than one cause. Top KCDC officials said if a patient had not developed sufficient immunity against the virus or if a patient's immune system weakens after recovery, the previously undetectable level of virus concentration could rebound. Or COVID-19 may be capable of staying dormant before reactivating. Another possibility is that tests are picking up dead virus particles that are no longer infectious or transmissible. KCDC director-general Jeong Eun-kyeong said relapse cases are detected an average of 13.5 days after recovery. The longest reported interval, however, is 35 days. KCDC has also mentioned errors in testing or sample collecting as potential causes. Short of definitive answers, authorities are for now advising recovered patients to stay home for an additional two weeks and to monitor for symptoms.

U.N. Agency Fears 'Vulnerable' Africa May Suffer At Least 300,000 COVID-19 Deaths

Up until now, all of Africa's confirmed cases of COVID-19 number in the thousands. But global health authorities fear this won't continue forever. "Anywhere between 300,000 and 3.3 million African people could lose their lives as a direct result of COVID-19, depending on intervention measures taken to stop the spread," the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa said. The problem rests partly with the layout and infrastructure of some of the biggest cities on the continent, where the majority of the urban population lives in overcrowded neighborhoods without reliable access to hand-washing facilities. Plus, there are relatively low supplies of hospital beds and 71% of the continent's workforce is "informally employed," according to the UNECA, without alternatives to work from home in the case of an outbreak. To calculate the impact of the virus, the commission referred to a computer model composed by researchers at Imperial College London, whose grim outlooks on the possible effects in other parts of the world have already proven widely influential. In a worst-case scenario, in which governments do not intervene with preventative measures such as large-scale social distancing, Africa may see more than 22 million people require hospitalization and some 3.3 million die of COVID-19. But even the best-case scenario — in which early and decisive measures save the lives of roughly 3 million people, according to the model — presents risks of its own.



Brazilian President Fires Health Minister After Clashes Over Coronavirus Distancing

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has fired his health minister as the country grapples with the biggest outbreak of the coronavirus in Latin America. Bolsonaro said Luiz Henrique Mandetta was leaving by mutual consent, but his departure follows weeks of acrimony between the two men over how to respond to the crisis. Mandetta, a charismatic doctor and politician, won widespread public support by advocating broad-based social isolation in line with recommendations from the World Health Organization and many other medical and scientific experts. Bolsonaro opposed across-the-board isolation measures imposed by Brazil's state governors, arguing that they devastate the economy and endanger public health by destroying millions of jobs and businesses. "Life is priceless, but the economy and employment need to return to normality," said Bolsonaro, after Mandetta announced his dismissal on Twitter. However, that does not mean acting too hastily, the president said. According to the Brazilian media, Bolsonaro — a far right populist and avid admirer of Donald Trump — was increasingly irked by Mandetta's popularity, which appears to have been reinforced by the minister's performances at the many televised press conferences he has held in recent weeks. A recent Datafolha poll gave Mandetta an approval rating of 76% — well above the president's 33%. Bolsonaro has for weeks publicly undermined his health ministry and state governors, by dismissing the coronavirus as a "little flu" and going onto the streets to shake hands and pose for selfies with his supporters. Unlike Mandetta, the president is a keen advocate of the anti-malarial drug hydroxyhloroquine for treating COVID-19 patients. Mandetta's dismissal comes as health systems in parts of Brazil, particularly the north and northeast, are becoming overwhelmed by the outbreak and lack of intensive care beds, testing kits and ventilators.