

KQYB-FM**2020 PUBLIC ISSUES PROGRAMMING - SECOND QUARTER****KQYB-FM Public Service Interviews**

Description of issue	Program	Date	Description of Segment
1) COVID-19	Phil Costigan	4/13/20 7:10 AM 5 min 4/15/20 7:10AM 5 min and 4/23/20 7:10AM 5 min	Gundersen Health System Professional, Tia discusses the local impact of COVID-19 The La Crosse County Health Department and Hunger Task Force Food Drive Friday Interview – The community response to the economic impacts of COVID-19 shutdowns and layoffs.
2) Economy/ Community Needs	Phil Costigan Mid-West Farm Report with Kaitlyn Riley	4/15/20 7:10AM 5 min 4/23/20 7:10AM 5 min 05/10/20 5:00A 8min 03/12/20 5:00A 8 min 03/24/20 5:00A 8 min	The La Crosse County Health Department and Hunger Task Force Food Drive Friday Interview – The community response to the economic impacts of COVID-19 shutdowns and layoffs. Jordan and Rachelle Meyer, Wholesome Family Farms Secretary-Designee Randy Romanski, DATCP Karin Schaefer, Minnesota Beef Council

<p>2) Economy/ Community Needs</p>	<p>Mid-West Farm Report with Kaitlyn Riley</p>	<p>04/03/20 5:00A 8 min and 04/15/20 5:00A 8 min</p> <p>04/07/20 5:00A 8 min and 06/24/20 5:00A 8 min</p> <p>04/23/20 5:00A 8 min</p> <p>04/29/20 5:00 8 min</p> <p>05/06/20 5:00A 8 min</p> <p>05/08/20 5:00 A 8 min</p> <p>05/19/20 5:00 A 8 min</p> <p>06/03/20 5:00A 8 min</p> <p>06/10/20 5:00A 8:00 min</p> <p>06/16/20 5:25A 5 min</p>	<p>Congressman Ron Kind</p> <p>Joe Nelson, Lanesboro Sales Commission</p> <p>Dan Kruse, Sema Equipment</p> <p>Tom Weighner, WW Homestead Dairy</p> <p>Brady Reicks, Reicks View Farms</p> <p>Secretary-Designee Randy Romanski, DATCP</p> <p>John Umhoefer, Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association</p> <p>John Mchugh, Kwik Trip</p> <p>Tony Nieto, Neat-O's Bake Shoppe</p> <p>Kelsi Grubisich, UWL Engagement/Leadership Coordinator</p>
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<p>2) Economy/ Community Needs</p>	<p>Mid-West Farm Report with Kaitlyn Riley</p>	<p>03/21/20 5:00A 8 min</p> <p>04/27/20 5:00 8 min</p> <p>05/04/20 5:25A 5 min</p> <p>5/1/20 8 min</p> <p>05/20/20 5:00A 8 min</p>	<p>Chad Staehly, La Crosse Distillery</p> <p>Ryan Waldhart, West Salem School District</p> <p>Cindy Taerud, APTIV</p> <p>Deb Wilkening, Together We Are Cashton</p>
<p>3) Community Enrichment</p>	<p>Phil Costigan</p>	<p>5/14/20 9:15A 3 min</p> <p>6/26/20 8:50AM 4 min</p> <p>6/29/10 7:30AM 2 min</p>	<p>Sally. Evangelical Lutheran Brownsville Church Dinner.</p> <p>Mark Smith. Lewiston Legion promotes their Chicken Barbeque and Flag Retirement ceremony</p> <p>Joel Nelson. Fillmore County Cattleman's beef dinner fundraiser. 2 minutes. 7:30 AM</p>
<p>4) Community Health</p>	<p>Phil Costigan in the Morning</p>	<p>4/14/20 9:30A 5 min</p>	<p>Gundersen Health System MIM Coordinator, Carrie promote the importance of physical activity and the free Minutes in Motion Activity Challenge</p>

KQYB-FM Programming Issues - Public Service Announcements

All announcements aired between 04/01/20 and 06/30/20

Issue	Announcement	Length	Number
Public Health /COVID-19	COVID-19 Resources and Information	:30	135
Economy/ Community Needs	La Crosse County Health Department/ Hunger Task Force weekly food drive	:30	240
Economy/ Community Needs	Red Cross – Blood Drives	:20	45
Community Enrichment	Viterbo Fundraiser	:30	70
Community Health	Minutes in Motion	:30	21
Race Relations	Equal Opportunity Employment	:30	91

2020 NEWS ISSUES Q2 – KQYB -FM News stories are approximately thirty seconds long and air on KQYB between the hours of 5:30AM and 9:00AM from 04/01/20 and 06/30/20

Health/Coronavirus:

4/1 There were no new positive cases of COVID-19 released Wednesday by the La Crosse County Health Department. Though that in and of itself is good news, County Health Director Jen Rombalski urges caution There are 19 total cases of Coronavirus in the county. 12 of those cases are identified as being recovered.

4/2 - Menards is taking extra measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. Tuesday, signs were posted outside the Menards in La Crosse that banned children under 16, as well as pets. "We are no longer able to allow children under the age of 16, nor pets, in the store due to the COVID-19 crisis," the sign reads. The sign adds that service animals are still allowed and anyone that doesn't look 16 or older will be asked for ID.

4/2 - Minnesota still has about 30 counties which have recorded no cases of COVID-19. The only Minnesota county in this area on that list is Houston County. Sheriff Mark Inglett believes his county-- population, 19-thousand--is doing its part to prevent any spread of coronavirus: Inglett says Houston County officers are trying to screen telephone calls, to determine which situations cannot be settled over the phone and need a personal response.

4/3 - Worried about grocery shopping in the midst of Governor Tony Evers' Safer at Home order? There's no need to. That message come from Evers himself, as he tries to help keep supplies available during a time of uncertainty Evers says you don't need a special permit to be outside, but adds gathering in large groups is not allowed.

4/3 - No new cases yesterday of the virus in La Crosse County, which still sits at 19. Six of those are still recovering, including two in the hospital, which means 13 no longer have to be isolated. The La Crosse County Health Department will have another press conference at 2:30 p.m. today on Facebook Live. It has moved to doing those on Monday, Wednesday and Friday but will post daily updates on its Facebook page. Statewide, Wisconsin grew by 180 cases, bringing the total to 1,730. Nearly a third of those are hospitalized. The death toll in the state grew by seven for a total of 31. Across the river, Minnesota's death toll from COVID-19 grew by just one to now 18. The state had 53 more cases yesterday for a 742 total. Half of those no longer need to be isolated.

4/3 – One new confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported in La Crosse County this afternoon. The newest case is a girl in her teens and she had traveled to Florida within the last two weeks. Additionally, another person has recovered, making it 14 of 20 confirmed cases who are now cleared. One person also was released from the hospital, so one hospitalization remains. The numbers weren't as positive statewide. There are now 1,916 cases, up 186 cases from Thursday, and 6 new deaths leaving the totals at 37. 25% of the positive cases are in the hospital

4/6 – Are you still seeing people walking in public parks or around your neighborhood, even though there are orders to stay home? La Crosse County's health director, Jen Rombalski, says limited time outdoors during the virus outbreak is still okay: But Rombalski tells WIZM's La Crosse Talk that travel to places like the grocery store should still be kept down to a couple of times a week. And putting a cloth covering on your face is recommended for going to locations where you might find a large number of people.

4/6 – La Crosse County has closed all campgrounds in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. County Health Director Jen Rombalski says there are concerns about drawing people from outside of the county which could increase the spread. It would also encourage non-essential travel, and common areas like bathrooms pose a risk as well.

4/7 – Some employees at Gundersen Health System will be temporarily furloughed or have their hours reduced. Gundersen says in a press release it is due to financial stress caused by COVID-19. Specific numbers of staff affected aren't yet known. CEO Scott Rathgaber says the hospital is anticipating and planning for a potential surge, meaning many appointments and procedures have been canceled. Gundersen has seen a 40 to 80% decrease in business operations. Rathgaber stresses the furloughs are temporary.

4/8 - It's been a little more than two weeks that Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers submitted his plan for citizens to be safer at home. Numbers locally in La Crosse have been rising slowly in part because of that order according to county health director Jen Rombalski. The rate of positive tests in La Crosse County is slightly over 2%

4/8 – One more case of Coronavirus was announced in La Crosse County today. The patient is a male in his 50s experiencing mild symptoms. There remains no hospitalizations and 17 people of the 24 have recovered. Statewide the Badger State saw cases rise by 178 and deaths by 7 to put that total at 99. Minnesota extended its stay at home order this afternoon, and La Crosse County Health Director Jen Rombalski is preparing for an extension from Governor Evers' order as well.

4/9 – A lot on the agenda for La Crosse's city council tonight. One of those, is a resolution establishing the Small Business Relief Grant Program to help those affected by a statewide shutdown over a viral pandemic. Kabat said there's about \$350,000 in the fund right now. He expects that to go fast. Once it does, they'll figure out another way to get funding to help those who most need it.

4/9 – When will the peak of COVID-19 cases reach Wisconsin, and when will life return to some sense of normal? It's a question many are asking and there are varying answers based on which projections you see. La Crosse County Health Director Jen Rombalski says you should simply take things day by day. La Crosse County announced one new case on Wednesday. There are currently 7 active cases after 17 have recovered.

4/9 – When will students get to return to school? It's a question many parents forced to home school their kids temporarily are asking and school administrators are asking that also. Onalaska superintendent Todd Antony doesn't expect they'll be opening the doors anytime so Antony says they're following Governor Tony Evers safer at home order, which currently goes through April 24th. There have been conversations that deadline could be extended.

4/10 – La Crosse County has been luckier than many other places during the coronavirus outbreak. County health director Jen Rombalski says it's 'wonderful' that the county has not recorded any deaths from COVID-19, and that the total number of local cases has remained under 30. But she says county residents should not let down their guard: Rombalski says she recently had to turn down invitations to celebrate her young son's birthday, because it's too soon to ease up on social distancing.

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4/13 – Pearl Street Brewery is hoping to pour more funds into local hospitality businesses. They set up a La Crosse Bar and Restaurant Relief Fund to help those struggling through the virus shutdown. Brewmaster Joe Katchever says there is a lack of funding for small businesses in the CARE Act. They are asking people to donate to the relief fund with 100 percent of the money going to partners of Pearl Street Brewery. Donations can be made through their Sprout for Kids Foundation.

4/13 – Discussion continues to rage both locally and nationally about when to get back to normal and do things like open businesses as COVID-19 starts to level off. La Crosse County Health Director Jen Rombalski says being too rash could push the recovery period back further for the third straight day, the department reported no new cases of coronavirus. 17 of the 26 total cases have recovered.

4/15 – The number of COVID-19 cases in Winona County has risen sharply in just one day. The county reports that 21 more persons have tested positive for the virus, bringing the total of cases in Winona County to 51. Health officials say a major reason for the increase is the expansion of testing at nursing homes and other care facilities. Six deaths have been reported in Winona County.

4/15 – A couple of coronavirus milestones have been reached this week at Mayo of La Crosse. Mayo opened its drive-up testing tent near the La Crosse hospital one month ago today (Thursday), on March 16th. And this week, the testing staff saw their one thousandth patient. Physician Paul Molling at Mayo thanks local residents for practicing social distancing to keep COVID levels low in the Coulee Region. Mayo requires patients who want to be tested for coronavirus to call them first, to see whether symptoms are serious enough to justify in-person testing. Dr. Molling says diarrhea and other digestive symptoms have been added to coughs and fever as signs of possible infection.

4/16 – She did not know her Coronavirus journey began with an exposure March 12. After La Crosse County healthcare worker Katie Drury was diagnosed late March--- it took over her life until April 8. She says at first --- she thought her dry cough was from not having enough water. When she felt aches --- she thought it was her rheumatoid arthritis because of stress. Finally --- an extreme sinus headache made her call her doctor. Drury was quarantined to her room and a bathroom for 10 days. She says the first seven had her in an extreme illness like she never experienced before. Drury adds even when she could leave her room --- she was told to stay inside her home for another seven days.

4/17 - One county hasn't seen any new cases in nearly a week, while another, smaller county's numbers have nearly doubled. For the sixth consecutive day, yesterday, La Crosse County had no new cases of COVID 19. Last week, the most La Crosse had in any one day was ... one. And that happened four times. La Crosse County's total is still at 26 ... 23 have recovered. One is still in the hospital. Meanwhile, just up river, Winona County has more than double the numbers at 54. Winona had a big jump Wednesday with 21 cases, and three more yesterday. The death toll in Winona is six, while La Crosse remains at zero. Statewide, the death toll in Minnesota grew by 7 to 94. In Wisconsin, 15 more died of the virus for a total of 197 — with 103 of those in Milwaukee County. Minnesota has 1,912 cases to Wisconsin's 3,875 — with 2,006 of those in Milwaukee. In the Coulee Region, Houston and Trempealeau counties still have just one case, while Vernon County remains at zero confirmed.

5/1 – While there were no new cases Thursday of COVID-19 in La Crosse County, two nearby counties are not as lucky. In Minnesota, Winona County suffered its 15th death from the virus. Its case count remained at 66 for the third consecutive day, however. In the northeast corner of Iowa, Allamakee County's case count has risen to 89 out of 242 tests. There have been three deaths in the county. La Crosse County's case count remains at 29, with 26 recovered and nobody in the hospital.

5/3 – La Crosse's Habitat for Humanity program gets a helping hand from a local contractor in finishing some homes for families. Habitat director Kahya Fox says the shutdowns resulting from coronavirus reduced the number of people who could help build homes. But then, one company stepped up: Fox says the framing for a house might normally take four weeks, with just volunteer workers. But she says Brickl Brothers can get that work done in a week.

5/4 - A movement to feed families in West Salem exceeded all expectations. Ryan Waldhart with the West Salem Education Association says the association and local Lions Club raised about \$17,000 to buy grocery store gift cards for families in need. On Friday --- they presented a check \$13,000 check to Hansen's IGA to buy gift cards for 240 families. Hansen's also donated \$1,000 for the cause. There will be a second round of payments to serve additional families.

5/6 - By the end of the week, the city of La Crosse will announce what small businesses will be awarded a total of \$350,000 in grant funding. In mid-April, the city held a two-week application process for businesses. Part of the stipulation was they had to employ 75 or less. After that, city economic development planner Andrea Schnick said ... (leads in to quote) ... In the end, the city had to trim 114 applications down to 50. Businesses could receive \$5,000 per 10 employees, up to \$25,000. Schnick said if more funding becomes available and businesses still need help with the pandemic, they will do another round of the program.

5/6 – Please still come in. That's the message from Dr. Chris Eberlein --- an emergency medicine physician at Gunderson. He says they have seen delays in people seeking emergency care because of COVID-19. Eberlein says emergency room patients are not a burden --- and they do have personal protective equipment to protect patients as well as themselves.

5/13 – Five new cases of COVID-19 out of La Crosse County on Tuesday. Three of the five new cases are connected with a previous case, according to the county health department, while the other two cases are being investigated. La Crosse now has 40 cases, 32 recovered and one hospitalized. There were also two more cases reported in Vernon County. Both are men in their 50s, who are isolating at home. Vernon and Trempealeau counties now have six cases. Statewide, Wisconsin reported just three deaths Wednesday, along with 291 new cases. It's the fourth consecutive day with a single-digit death toll, which last happened beginning April 24. Minnesota reported another 24 deaths, along with 423 new cases. The state has had 20 or more deaths in eight of the last nine days. In Iowa, after seeing its highest death tally on Tuesday, the state had its second-highest count Wednesday at 17. Iowa also reported another 377 cases.

5/15 – Businesses are re-opening in La Crosse County --- but Health Department Director Jen Rombalski asks they do so cautiously. There are guidelines for businesses to follow through the health department and Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation --- but no enforcement because there is no order for La Crosse County. Rombalski says if they see businesses and community members taking risks --- the health department will take action and do "what is reasonable and necessary to prevent the spread of disease."

5/20 – Valley View Mall in La Crosse says it will re-open Friday. The La Crosse County Health Department says that opening needs to be done as safely as possible. Health Director Jen Rombalski says they still do not advise people travel outside of their home beyond essential travel --- and the mall should not be a "hang out" location.

5/22 – After weeks of closure because of coronavirus, several city-run facilities in La Crosse are scheduled to re-open following the holiday weekend. City Hall will open Tuesday, with service booths located throughout the lobby so visitors don't have to leave the 1st floor. The Main Street Library also opens on Tuesday, but only by appointment for use of printing and computer services. Other Tuesday openings include the La Crosse Center lobby, and the resumption of paid parking in city parking ramps. Fire stations, community centers, and the lobby of the Grand River bus station will remain closed for now. Last week --- the health department said it would not create a local order after Safer at Home was thrown out --- but Rombalski says the health department will put one in place if deemed necessary.

5/26 – After three consecutive days without a case of COVID-19, La Crosse County reported three new cases of the virus yesterday. That brings the total up to 51. The county's health department says two are men in their 30s and 50s, while the other is a woman in her 60s. Currently, nobody from the county is hospitalized. Around the area, both Winona and Trempealeau counties added one case yesterday. Trempealeau now has 20 cases. Winona is at 78.

6/2 – Four new cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County today. That brings the total of cases to 60 with 47 recovered. Nobody is currently in the hospital. Statewide, Wisconsin cases of COVID-19 rose by 374 Tuesday, after two days below 200. There were 12 deaths reported in the state, after two days in the single digits.

6/3 – Three new cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County and another five cases in Trempealeau County reported today. That brings the total to 63 in La Crosse, with 50 having recovered. Nobody is currently in the hospital. The new cases are men in their 70s and 20s, and a woman in her 40s. Trempealeau now has had a total of 31 cases with 16 recovered. No other area counties reported new cases.

6/10 – A new record for COVID-19 cases in a day reported in La Crosse County yesterday. Seven new cases were reported by the health department. The previous high was five. Two of La Crosse County's 83 cases are now hospitalized. La Crosse County has had multiple cases eight consecutive days — 27 in all. The county has had at least one case 11 consecutive days — 30 total. At one point in April, La Crosse had gone 13 days without a new case.

6/10 – After setting a single-day record with seven new cases of COVID-19 yesterday, La Crosse County more than doubled that today. The county reported 15 new cases of the virus and is now up to 98 total. At this point, the health department does not have severity of those infected, because there are so many. This is the 12th consecutive day with at least one new case, and ninth day in a row with multiple cases. Over the last nine days, the county has had 42 new cases. Of the 15 new cases, one is under 10 years old and another is a teenager, both from previous cases. Six of the 15 are from previous cases. Eight of the cases are people in their 20s.

6/12 – La Crosse County reported eight more cases of COVID-19 on Friday. That's the second-highest total reported in the county. All eight cases were people in their 20s. The county is now at 109 total, with three now hospitalized and 62 considered recovered. La Crosse has now had 62 cases in June, including 33 in the past four days. The single-day high in the county is 15, which happened Wednesday. On Tuesday, seven cases were reported.

6/17 – Another single-day high for COVID-19 cases in La Crosse County.

Yesterday, there were 21 new cases reported in the county, which has now set the single-day high twice in the past seven days — 15 was the previous high. The total case count is up to 153 with 65 considered recovered and nobody currently hospitalized.

6/18 – A day after a record-high 21 cases of COVID-19, La Crosse County reported another 20 cases yesterday. The county total is now at 173 total cases -- 118 of those coming in June alone. There are currently 101 active cases and 72 considered recovered. This is the 19th consecutive day with at least a case and 16th consecutive day with multiple cases. The county went 13 consecutive days without a case back in April.

6/18 – Another record single-day high for COVID-19 cases in La Crosse County.

The health department reported 22 more cases Thursday. The Top 3 single-day highs have now come in the past three days (20, 21, 22). The county has now had 140 of the 195-total case in June alone. Of the 195 total cases, 115 of those currently active (not recovered). Nobody from the county is hospitalized at this time. Nobody from the county has ever died from the virus.

6/19 – La Crosse County keeps setting new COVID-19 records this week. The 25 new cases reported on Friday tops the previous daily record set the day before. That makes 88 new cases of COVID just in the last four days, pushing the county total above 200. The county health department has posted a list of places and times where people may have been exposed to the virus in the last two weeks. The list includes four separate days at Pettibone Beach, and two days where people risked being exposed on cruises of the La Crosse Queen.

Economy:

4/8 – A recent study of Wisconsin tourism pointed to several counties which could be hit hard by virus-related shutdowns. La Crosse County was number 9 in the state two years ago in revenue from tourism spending. County visitor bureau director A.J. Frels has seen a different study, showing that Americans are hoping to travel this summer, when it's okay to leave home again: Frels says the county has marketing planned to appeal to short-distance travelers, and to convention organizers who might hold meetings in La Crosse.

5/8 – One reason the city of La Crosse might have a \$6 million shortfall this year is because the La Crosse Center can't have big events right now. The 40-year-old building is undergoing a large renovation...and besides, big gatherings are banned for now because of COVID-19. But center board president Brent Smith says building manager Art Fahey is still working on future schedules, if government restrictions are eased up soon: Smith hopes some activities can still happen during the center's traditional busy season, starting in September and October.

5/12 -Gas prices in La Crosse are about 20 cents higher than they were a week ago, and almost 40 cents more than in mid-April. The average price at city gas stations is \$1.62 a gallon, which is still a dollar lower than last May. The Triple-A says gas is pennies cheaper in Appleton and Janesville than in La Crosse, and 40 states still have gas selling for less than \$2 a gallon.

5/12 – Governor Tony Evers is telling some smaller businesses in Wisconsin that they can reopen with limited customers. But critics of the Democratic governor say that's not fair to all business owners. Third District Republican Party chair Bill Feehan and his wife Sue Kolve run a hair salon, and salons have not gotten permission to reopen yet. Feehan says members of his party have lots of problems with how Evers is leading the state: Feehan would rather allow individual businesses to set their own limits on the number of people in a building, than let the state set a number.

5/19 – When La Crosse's Valley View Mall opened 40 years ago this summer, it had four large anchor stores. Only one of those stores, J.C. Penney, remains at Valley View, and its future is in question. The Penney company filed for bankruptcy a few days ago, and now says it will close about 240 stores to save money. That would represent almost one-third of all the existing Penney stores. No closing list has been published yet.

Community needs:

4/1 – In any given year, the start of spring would be a tough time for community food pantries like the Hunger Task Force of La Crosse. Task Force director Shelly Fortner says the Christmas-time donations begin to run low when you reach mid-April: But there's no mail carrier food drive this year. And because of shutdowns and layoffs due to COVID-19, there's more demand for donated food. The Task Force has joined with area Rotary Clubs for a seven-week food collection drive, happening every Friday at locations in La Crosse and Onalaska.

4/17 – Another month on lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak means the community is going to have to rally together. Part of that rally begins today with FOOD DRIVE FRIDAYS in three locations around La Crosse. The Hunger Task Force of La Crosse and the county health department have volunteers ready to take non-perishable donations from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today. Those locations will be in --The Valley View Mall parking lot by the old Macy's, Big Lots on the south side. and the Courthouse, Law Center downtown. People are hurting and charities have had to adjust, postponing traditional events that would replenish food stocks do to social distancing rules. So, today's the first of seven Food Drive Fridays that will run through May. Just bring your items, and volunteers wearing masks will take them drive-thru style to keep everyone safe.

4/20 – The first of seven Food Drive Fridays to restock about 70 food pantries in the greater La Crosse area was an amazing success. Hunger Task Force executive director Shelly Fortner said they had over 15,000 of non-perishable foods donated during that two-hour window at the three La Crosse locations. The line of cars was steady for two hours at the Valley View Mall location. Rotary Lights director Pat Stephens said the biggest problem was having enough trucks to load everything. On top of the food, there was a great influx of cash donations, which will be matched up to 25,000 dollars from an anonymous donor. Fortner said, based on what was given Friday, that will easily be matched.

4/21 – Longtime Logan track and field coach Joe Hackbarth isn't giving up on there being a spring sports season but it doesn't look good. The WIAA board of control meets today to come up with any possible plan. A lot of attention was given, as the virus pandemic exploded and the WIAA cancelled basketball right in the midst of the state tournament. Hackbarth, who just finished as the state track coaches association president, says they're trying to come up with any way to have a season ... perhaps from June to early July like summer baseball, but things look extremely difficult.

4/22 – We can still enjoy going outside and exploring local hiking and biking trails. La Crosse County Health Department Director Jennifer Rombolski recommends wearing a mask when you might have contact with other people --- but says we don't have to be too paranoid of people passing us. Rombolski says people still shouldn't be stopping to talk with others who live outside of their households --- even if they are family members.

4/27 – A seven-week run to raise 100,000 dollars and 35,000 pounds of food will likely only need three weeks now. After last week, Food Drive Friday ready to surpass its goals after another 12,000 pounds of food came in. With over 27,000 pounds in the first two weeks of the Food Drive, Hunger Task Force of La Crosse executive director Shelly Fortner said she's seen it all in the donation boxes.

Those items would be: Peanut Butter, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Tuna and cereal.

The next drive is, of course, Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the mall, big lots or downtown. Otherwise, donate on the Hunger Task Force La Crosse website.

5/8 - It was a good way to start a Friday for Shelly Fortner, the Hunger Task Force of La Crosse executive director. She knew she would see the La Crosse community, again, flood Food Drive Fridays with donations, but before that even happened her day started with an encouraging phone call.

That 5,000 in donations from the local nonprofit was automatically doubled, thanks to Firefighters Credit Union's matching all funds up to \$50,000 through May for the Friday fundraisers. This effort to replenish food pantries across the Coulee Region has set a high bar from week to week. Week 4, last Friday, was a bit of a drop off from the first 3 weeks, in terms of food donated. But, that's only because those weeks saw a ridiculous amount of donations. More than 8,400 pounds of food came in. Almost tripling a regular food drive the Task Force does. On top of that, \$16,000 also came in, which will automatically be doubled. Over four weeks now, the drive has seen over 48,500 pounds of food and \$119,300 donated, not counting Firefighters CU's \$50k match — with three Fridays remaining.

6/15 – A blood drive happening today and tomorrow in downtown La Crosse desperately needs donors.

With typical hosting sites shut down because of the pandemic, the blood banks everywhere have been severely low on donations. And this is the greatest time of year where blood will be needed, as people are outside and accidents occur more often. The drive will take place at the Radisson Hotel ballroom on second street in downtown La Crosse beginning at 8:30 a.m. today and running until 1:30 p.m.

Tomorrow, the drive begins at 12:30 p.m. and runs through 5:30 p.m. Call 877-Be-A-Hero to make an appointment or check out the links to schedule online at WIZM news dot com.

Race Relations:

5/31 - The demonstrations against an African-American man's death in the Twin Cities included events in La Crosse this weekend: On Friday at Riverside Park, a crowd chanted 'I can't breathe' while remembering George Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on Floyd's neck for nine minutes. Katie was one of the organizers of that event, and she spoke of a spontaneous kneeling by several attendees which stopped traffic in the park: After the Riverside Park event, and a similar gathering Saturday at Powell Park, participants marched as a group to La Crosse City Hall to conclude the demonstrations.

6/2 – La Crosse has had three peaceful demonstrations downtown since last Friday night, and Mayor Tim Kabat hopes future gatherings will remain peaceful. The next event in response to a police-related death in Minneapolis happens tonight, starting at 7 in Riverside Park. Kabat is pleased that La Crosse city police have tried to avoid confrontation with demonstrators: During a meeting of La Crosse's human rights commission on Tuesday, the mayor said the city tries to be "welcoming" and "inclusive," but adds there's still work to be done.

6/3 – La Crosse police will be on hand tonight (Wednesday) to keep the peace during what is being organized as a peaceful protest downtown. It's the latest local demonstration against racism, following the Minneapolis death of George Floyd while in police custody. Police Captain Jason Melby does not expect problems with social distancing, because the event organizers are encouraging safe practices to avoid the coronavirus: Melby says officers assigned to the 7 p.m. rally at Riverside Park will try to ensure that the demonstration does not get out of hand.

6/3 – La Crosse's fourth protest over the police killing of George Floyd saw at least 500 people show up at Riverside Park last night. Many people of color spoke, led by La Crosse native Katrina Sletten.

The four-hour protest then marched to City Hall, where police chief Shawn Kudron said a "transparency tab" would go live today on the police's website. Also speaking, La Crosse Mayor Tim Kabat.

The protest then took 9 minutes of silence ... the same amount of time it took for Minneapolis Police's Derek Chauvin to kill George Floyd by kneeling on his neck. After that, they marched down to Market Street and back to Riverside Park.

6/4 – Attitudes between white people and persons of other races need to change for racism to be reduced in La Crosse and elsewhere. That message comes from La Crosse School Board member Shaundel Spivey (SPY-vee), who has worked on different diversity programs in the area. Spivey tells WISN that individuals should look at how they react to people different from themselves:

Spivey says people in the community need to stand up and speak out about injustice, and figure out ways to dismantle institutions that keep racism alive.

6/7 – Mayor Tim Kabat has responded to public calls for changes in La Crosse city policy, after the Minneapolis death of George Floyd. The mayor was presented with five questions, dealing with racism, police activity, and protests. In the written response, Kabat says he wants to have forums, including a virtual town hall, that will include people of color in the community. He says he'll try to develop 'inclusive, welcoming processes.' The mayor also notes that the La Crosse Police have launched a web page to demonstrate 'transparency in policing.'

6/8 – La Crosse authorities are still investigating an incident in which the wife of Mayor Tim Kabat was pepper-sprayed by a van driver. The dispute between Christy Kabat and the driver happened over a week ago, during a downtown demonstration against racism. The mayor tells WIZM's La Crosse Talk PM that his family is getting threatening messages because of the incident, and he says people should direct their comments to him, and not to his family: Mrs. Kabat has been identified by police as the person who instigated the incident with the driver, because demonstrators were in the street while the man was driving.

6/10 – A day after killing George Floyd, Derek Chauvin was fired from the Minneapolis Police Department. It came out later, he had been named in 17 misconduct complaints over the years. It's an oversight La Crosse County district attorney Tim Gruenke says hasn't happened here.

Gruenke, on La Crosse Talk PM yesterday, discussed the outcry over police reform and where the city's police department stands in terms of certain reforms being demanded. Listen to the full interview at [WIZM news dot com slash podcasts](http://WIZMnews.com/podcasts).

6/17 - La Crosse County is looking at ways that local police can have better relations with people of color in the area. District Attorney Tim Gruenke says there's too much of a tendency to blame police for attitudes of racism: Gruenke heads the county criminal justice council. He's planning to form special study committees, to look into complaints of racism and bad behavior by local police, in the wake of the George Floyd killing.

6/18 – The La Crosse School District is a year away from needing to renew its contract with the city's police for School Resource Officers. So, this is the time when those discussions would begin. It just comes at a peculiar time, amid protest over police. And, Monday, La Crosse School Board president Laurie Cooper Stoll (Stole) laid it all out at their meeting, questioning whether the \$250,000 contract for school police was worth the price. Cooper Stoll, on La Crosse Talk PM yesterday, said there is data that shows a correlation between school resource officers and racial disparity that needs to be looked into as they discuss re-upping with La Crosse Police for a 26th year.

6/19 – It may not be the greatest phrase to describe what a lot of communities are calling for ... to defund the police. The idea is to narrow the role police, and leave other duties to people more specifically trained. La Crosse assistant police chief Rob Abraham isn't too keen on the idea for pretty simple reasons: Abraham, who's been with the department since the 90s, said on La Crosse Talk PM yesterday, law enforcement used to be just that -- law enforcement. But their role evolved because other entities couldn't do those "other" jobs as efficiently as police.