

WGTD Community Issues File

WGTD news stories air a minimum of two times in our newscasts that air between 6am and 8:10am, Monday through Friday. Each news story then airs again in our 25-minute WGTD Midday newscast @ Noon. (Key: N=News) (Key: WPR = Wisconsin Public Radio) (Key: NPR = National Public Radio) (Key: MMR= Marketplace Morning Report)

WGTD's "Morning Show" airs Monday through Friday from 8:10-9am. (Key: MS)

Education Matters, Community Matters and Generation NOW are locally-produced shows, 45 minutes in length, that air every Saturday morning. (Key: EM or CM or GN)

WGTD Community Issues: 2nd Quarter, April-May-June 2020

Civil Rights/Police Brutality: The George Floyd Murder:

06/02: Some George Floyd-related protests continued across our listening area last night. To mitigate any potential looting or other trouble---Kenosha issued a curfew for the second night in a row---and Racine issued its first. It seemed to work. Lieutenant Matthew Sterol from the Kenosha Police Department said it was a pretty quiet night. (3:30) (N)

06/02: More protests over the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer are scheduled for both Kenosha and Racine tonight. Two groups of protesters will make their way downtown Kenosha this evening. A Facebook group page entitled "Kenosha Guard" is hosting an event they are calling "Peaceful, Armed, Assembly to Deter Looting/Rioting" at Civic Center Park Across from the courthouse from 4:30-10:00pm. Another event, "Kneel for Nine," will be taking place at virtually the same spot--- 56th and Sheridan Road---from 5:30pm-6:00pm. The City and County of Kenosha have instituted a curfew of 8:00pm In Racine---there will be Justice for George March starting at 10th & Main at 6pm. That march will go to the Racine County Courthouse. It is sponsored by Foster Youth Empowered---and---Racine Women for Racial Justice. The groups are mandating that marchers wear masks and practice social distancing. (:60) (N)

06/03: One former Minneapolis police officer is facing charges in the death of George Floyd but three others who were on the scene have not been charged. What's the case against them and how difficult could it be to prove? (3:49) (N/NPR)

06/03: Police are seemingly targeting reporters at protests across the nation - sometimes causing significant injuries. Why? (3:29) (N/NPR)

06/03: With heavy police and military presence and an extended curfew in many places, protests for George Floyd have persisted nationwide – but the majority of them have been peaceful. (6:45) (N/NPR)

06/04: Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin now faces a charge of second-degree murder in addition to earlier charges in the death of George Floyd and three other former officers face charges of aiding and abetting murder. (5:00) (N/NPR)

06/05: George Floyd was remembered as a loving brother during a memorial service as civil rights leaders called his death a catalyst for systemic change. (4:06) (N/NPR)

06/05: NPR's Steve Inskeep talks to screenwriter, show producer and novelist John Ridley about the unrest in America over the killing of George Floyd, a black man in police custody in Minneapolis. (7:08) (N/NPR)

06/05: New charges have been filed in Racine---in the Thelma Orr Community Options Policing Home fire case. 25-year-old Justin Hernandez of Kenosha and 21-year-old Kylie Gelmi of Mount Pleasant have both been charged with burglary and arson of a building. (:60) (N)

06/08: The nationwide wave of protests over police brutality and racial injustice has now reached the smaller cities and town---here in Wisconsin. Many people who have never participated in protests before are getting involved---and---rural areas are seeing unprecedented participation (3:45) (N/WPR)

06/08: With Kenosha police declining to comment on ongoing incidents or investigations during the city's three days of unrest and unease over George Floyd, the information vacuum was often times filled by social media, and in particular, 30-year-old Koerri Elijah Washington. His work tools were a phone, a Facebook page and a skateboard. He built a huge following by skating around town and webcasting various scenes as they unfolded. One video logged well over 80,000 views. (2:15) (N)

06/08: George Floyd will be laid to rest this week in Houston, his hometown. Monday is the public viewing, and Tuesday is the private funeral. Floyd died last month in Minneapolis while in police custody. (7:00) (N/NPR)

06/09: George Floyd will be laid to rest today in Houston. Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis Police officer two weeks ago and his death sparked an international outcry. (4:15) (N/NPR)

06/10: Defund the police has become a controversial slogan of the nationwide protests over police brutality. (:60) (N/WPR)

06/10: NPR's Rachel Martin speaks with Patrick Yoe, president of the Fraternal Order of Police, the nation's largest police union, about the push for reforms when it comes to policing. (2:31) (N/NPR)

06/10: Mourners in Houston and many more around the country watched the funeral of George Floyd. He was remembered as a caring man who has left a long and lasting legacy. (2:29) (N/NPR)

06/11: Senate Republicans are putting together a legislative package addressing the country's policing system. NPR's Noel King speaks with Republican Senator James Lankford, from Oklahoma, who is part of this working group. (6:00) (N/NPR)

06/11: Racine Mayor Cory Mason created a task force to study RPD's use of force policies, and determine whether a citizen-based review board should be formed to investigate complaints against police. The task force is part of Mason's response to days of demonstrations in the wake of the Minneapolis in-police-custody death of George Floyd. (:45) (N)

06/12: Protestors against police brutality were out again across Wisconsin yesterday. On Wednesday---Wisconsin GOP Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner told The House Judicial Committee on Police reform that he SUPPORTS the efforts of the demonstrators. (:60) (N/WPR)

06/12: Since the protests sparked by George Floyd's killing in police custody, many have called for overhauling police departments and policies. Efforts underway in some cities have had mixed success. (9:00) (N/NPR)

06/15: The head of Wisconsin's largest police union says that his group supports a nationwide ban on choke holds that is being proposed by Congressional Democrats. The union also supports other reform measures aimed at increasing police responsibility. (:60) (N/WPR)

06/16: President Donald Trump announced he will sign an executive order Tuesday on police reform amid increased pressure after the death of George Floyd. (2:30) (N/NPR)

06/16: The Senate Judiciary Committee takes up the call for police reform. NPR's Noel King asks Sen. Chris Coons if there's common ground that could lead to substantial changes to America's policing system. (5:30) (N/NPR)

06/17: Senate Republicans are preparing to unveil a police reform proposal. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell called the Democratic police reform bill "a non-starter." (4:45) (N/NPR)

06/17: Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser urged the county board last night to pass a resolution declaring racism to be a public health crisis. It's a response to the police custody death of George Floyd. The request was formally made during Kreuser's annual state of the county address. (:60) (N)

06/22: NPR's Noel King talks to sociologist Rashawn Ray of the Brookings Institution about why simply diversifying a police department does not decrease police brutality toward people of color. (7:01) (N/NPR)

06/25: A new Wisconsin poll finds that 61% of respondents support Black Lives Matters protests happening across the nation. The latest Marquette Law School poll---released Wednesday---was conducted before protests in Madison saw two statues torn down and a state senator assaulted by protesters. (:60) (N)

06/25: Governor Tony Evers has activated the National Guard to protect state properties after a night of violence that included the toppling of two statues outside the state Capitol---and---an attack on a state senator. (:90) (N)

Public Health: The Spread of the Coronavirus

04/01: Tens of thousands of Wisconsinites are flooding the state unemployment insurance system---overwhelming the call centers---and---that has left the newly-unemployed stuck---on-hold---for hours and days---on-end---unable to complete their claims. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/01: A new report indicates more than 100 municipalities---here in Wisconsin--- lack enough poll workers to offer any in-person voting on Election Day. Another 126 municipalities are short-handed with poll workers---leaving them unable to staff all their polling sites. Gov. Tony Evers has asked President Donald Trump to issue a major disaster declaration for the state due to the pandemic. The request Tuesday came as Evers announced the opening of voluntary isolation centers in Madison and Milwaukee. State unemployment claims also hit a daily high. And the state's health secretary warned lawmakers that Medicaid enrollments were going to increase dramatically. Wisconsin has more than 1,350 confirmed cases and at least 25 deaths. Governor Evers also says Wisconsin has received its second shipment of personal protective equipment to help health care workers and emergency medical workers in the fight against COVID-19. The

supplies are going to medical facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and clinics across Wisconsin. Those supplies include N95 respirators, face masks and shields, surgical gowns, coveralls and gloves. (:90) (N)

04/01: Life---here in Wisconsin---has transformed since Governor Evers declared a public health emergency on March 12th. Businesses are closed---across the state---and---people are being urged to stay at home to slow the spread of the coronavirus. But---some business continues---including the filing of medical debt lawsuits against patients. (4:00) (N/WPR)

04/01: Coronavirus isolation centers have opened---today---in Milwaukee and Madison. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/01: As more test results come back, the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Kenosha County is spiking. By the end of the day yesterday, 55-56 cases were confirmed, with test results still pending in 14 cases that are considered probable, according to Jennifer Freiheit, Kenosha County Health Dept. Dir. The number of confirmed cases represents an increase of about 20 from the day before. Freiheit briefed the county board and the community as a whole in a Tuesday night teleconference. A total of five hospitalizations have occurred. (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N)

04/01: A home-based learning program will be launched next Monday by Racine Unified. According to a post on the district's website, materials will be sent either electronically or by U.S. Mail. The district expects K-2 students to put in an hour a day of school work, grades 3-5, two hours and middle school and high school students, three hours per day. The district makes clear the onus is on parents to make sure their kids buckle down. Addressing parents, the post says "You are now responsible for ensuring that your child participates in daily learning activities while juggling many other responsibilities." The work won't be graded, and for high school students, the packets will include A-C-T prep material. Plans have also been made for special education and ESL students. Kenosha Unified began a similar program last Monday. (:60) (N)

04/01: A plain-clothes Kenosha Police officer paid a visit to Hobby Lobby late yesterday afternoon in an effort to persuade them to obey Gov. Evers' "Safer at Home" order. The craft-selling chain has been determined to be a "non-essential" business and should close, according to state officials. The store begs to differ and at least initially defied the edict. The Kenosha officer, on his way in, told WGTD News he wasn't there to issue a ticket, but rather to offer guidance and request that the store close voluntarily. TMJ4 reported yesterday that at least a couple other Hobby Lobby stores in the suburban Milwaukee area remained open after the gubernatorial order was issued, then closed after being told to do so. (:60) (N)

04/01: Federal officials are now predicting that the coronavirus could claim more than 200 thousand American lives. The news brought a more somber tone to Tuesday's White House briefing on the issue. (8:15) (N/NPR)

04/01: The government ordered lenders to let homeowners skip payments if they lost income due to the coronavirus. Landlords, however, can require renters to pay even if they've lost their job. (3:51) (N/NPR)

04/01: NPR's Rachel Martin talks to Michelle Singletary, who writes about personal finance for The Washington Post, about what people can do during the coronavirus outbreak to ensure more financial security. (3:58) (N/NPR)

04/02: A Federal judge heard arguments---yesterday---in a case looking to delay the upcoming election---as coronavirus case continue to grow---here in Wisconsin. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/02: Wisconsin voters overwhelmingly supported closing schools and businesses to slow the spread of the new coronavirus according to the latest poll by Marquette University Law School. And their support for Gov. Tony Evers has never been higher. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/02: Here are the latest coronavirus stats for our listening area--- Kenosha County's confirmed case rate remained nearly steady at 57...Racine County's rate jumped from 10 to 36 in six days and Walworth County's rate over the past several days doubled to 14. Five have recovered while four were hospitalized. The Lake County Health Department is reporting 76 new cases of COVID-19 and no new deaths since yesterday. This brings the total number of Lake County COVID-19 cases to 465---including seven deaths as of April 1. (:45) (N)

04/02: A-quarter-of-a-million dollars in forgivable loans have been handed out to 15 small businesses in Racine in an effort to help them through the rough economic times. (:45) (N)

04/02: A stockpile of food that was in danger of spoiling because Gateway Technical College campuses are closed has been donated to a non-profit. (:45) (N)

04/02: Grocery stores, as they remain open as an essential business, are finding new ways to keep customers and employees alike safe. At Pick 'n' Save stores, the hand sanitizers, wipes, disinfectants and in some cases gloves are all in use. Jim Hyland, vice-president of communications and public affairs for Roundy's, says they're taking it a step further. (:60) (N)

04/02: Grocery store shelves are starting to fill up again as shoppers move away from a panic-buying mode that set in around the time schools announced they were closing and stay-at-home orders were being contemplated and then issued. Jim Hyland is vice-president of communications and public affairs for Roundy's... (:60) (N)

04/02: Colleges and universities---here in Wisconsin---are re-thinking how to recruit new students. Campuses are closed---and---families are being told to stay home--- due to the coronavirus pandemic. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/02: America needs to eat. So grocery store cashiers and stockers can't stay home to protect themselves and their families. Low-wage jobs that traditionally come with few protections are both dangerous and essential during this pandemic. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/02: The scramble is on to manufacture new ventilators fast. Our Planet Money team sees what it takes for a company that normally makes auto parts to turn on a dime and make ventilator parts. (6:30) (N/NPR)

04/02: The coronavirus crisis has paused much of the presidential campaign. President Trump has been a daily presence on television, but his likely Democratic opponent Joe Biden has struggled for attention. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/02: In the time of Covid 19 and limits on social gatherings, Americans have to find new ways to mourn their dead. From online memorials to virtual funerals, a look at mourning in the time of coronavirus. (3:40) (N/NPR)

04/02: Jobless claims hit another high today after a record breaking week last week. Some 3.28m Americans filed for unemployment benefits. (2:00) (N/NPR)

04/02: The government explains what airlines must do to get a share of \$50 billion in aid. It includes maintaining minimal service to where they flow now, and no consolidating flights between carriers. (2:27) (N/NPR)

04/03: Rumors abound on social media that the Wisconsin National guard is preparing to deploy to enforce statewide quarantines and closings. All those rumors are false. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/03: The number of confirmed cases of coronavirus continues to climb. Statewide, it's up to 1,730. That's actually 19 fewer than the day before, but 50 more than the day before that. Kenosha County's number--at 77--is triple of what it was about a week ago. Racine County is at 40, an increase of 12 from the day before. In Walworth County, the number stands at 15, up substantially from a few days earlier. No deaths have been reported in the tri-county area. Statewide, that number continues to rise and now stands at 31, with about half having occurred in Milwaukee County. (:90) (N)

04/03: There's keen competition for the new coronavirus test kits that are being produced by Abbott Labs. The new tests provide results in as few as five minutes. The Food and Drug Administration approved the process about a week ago. Since then, there's been great debate over what areas of the country should receive the tests first: COVID-19 hotspots or places where the virus has yet to take hold. (:60) (N)

04/03: One of the nation's biggest medical testing companies has acknowledged a backlog of at least 115,000 coronavirus tests, illustrating how the nation is still struggling to test effectively during the pandemic. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/03: Republican officials in several states are trying to ban abortion during the coronavirus crisis. They say the procedure should be suspended to help preserve medical supplies like surgical masks. (3:34) (N/NPR)

04/03: While most states have blanket lockdowns, some are a patchwork, with cities and counties mandating their own rules. (5:15) (N/NPR)

04/03: The Trump administration is reportedly working on recommendations that more Americans should wear facial coverings when leaving home. The market for medical masks is so competitive we now have hospitals accepting home-made versions. but it's unclear exactly how some of these D-I-Y masks and protective gear might be used in a medical setting. (3:00) (MME)

04/06: State officials continue to urge people to be patient as Wisconsin moves into its third week of sheltering-in-place. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/06: Tomorrow's Election Day will be one like none of us have ever seen before---and---it has nothing to do with any of the races on the ballot. The coronavirus pandemic has upended pretty much everything in just about everybody's lives---including how, when and where we cast our vote in tomorrow's election. (:90) (N)

04/06: NPR's Rachel Martin talks to expectant couple Mikey Hurley and her husband Simon Schropp about how during the coronavirus crisis they can't be together when their daughter is born. (7:08) (N/NPR)

04/06: A new report from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General presents an overview of how America's hospitals are responding to the coronavirus crisis. (3:41) (N/NPR)

04/06: Hundreds of thousands of people are recovering from coronavirus. They have many questions about what recovery is like and what to expect -- such as: Do I now have full immunity against the virus? (6:40) (N/NPR)

04/06: Jen Scarloto has been sewing as a hobby for years, never thinking that her skills would one day be considered potentially life-saving. Scarloto, a software consultant by day, has joined an army of several dozen others in Kenosha, and thousands across the country, in making hard-to-find-and-buy cloth, face masks for health care workers, first responders, nursing home residents and others. ((2 separate stories) (3:30) (N)

04/06: The experts advise that non-medical grade facemasks can help, as long as they're used properly with an understanding of their limitations. On WGTD's Community Matters program last Saturday, the directors of the nurse training programs at both Carthage College and UW-Parkside agreed that face mask use is just one component of what should be a broad strategy for staying healthy. Here's Rochelle Nelson from Parkside (:60) (N)

04/06: So what lies ahead for us as COVID-19 presumably peaks in the next couple of weeks and begins to wane? One thing that possibly should not be in the cards is summer vacations with plane travel. The advice came on last Saturday's Community Matters program from the nurse-training program coordinator at Carthage College, Frank Hicks, and his UW-Parkside counterpart Rochelle Nelson. (:60) (N)

04/06: An 85-year-old man with underlying health conditions has become Kenosha County's first recorded death due to COVID-19. Family members have identified him as Kurt Lienau, a retired auto body shop owner. While he may have had health problems, relatives told the Kenosha News that he remained active and was looking forward to summer. He died at the Froedtert-South Kenosha campus. The COVID-19 death is one of 68 that have been reported in Wisconsin. (:60) (N)

04/07: Today IS Election day---here in Wisconsin. A textbook example of political science 101 played out here yesterday---and---that is---control of the judiciary is extraordinarily important. Yesterday afternoon---after Governor Tony Evers issued an Executive Order delaying the election until June---state Republicans appealed it to the State Supreme Court. The court overturned the governor's order---so---in-person voting is on for today. Shortly after that---in a 5-4 decision---the US Supreme Court overturned an earlier decision by a Federal judge that allowed an extension of absentee ballot. According to the Wisconsin Elections Commission that means absentee ballots must be dropped off at a polling place or a designated municipal clerk's office by 8 o'clock tonight---or---postmarked today and received by 4pm on Monday April 13th. If you were waiting to receive an absentee ballot in the mail and you don't get it today---your only option to vote is to do it---in person---today. (2:00) (N)

04/07: Congressional lawmakers are scrambling to handle a flood of requests about coronavirus and the relief package they passed, as they work from home to try to set up ways to communicate with constituents. (3:26) (N/NPR)

04/07: More Americans are paying attention to the news, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic. But the outbreak is also stressing the finances of news organizations that are already struggling. (3:44) (N/NPR)

04/07: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been moved into intensive care at a London hospital after experiencing days of persistent symptoms, including a fever and a cough. (3:45) (N/NPR)

04/07: The medical supply chain is in crisis. Governors and experts are putting growing pressure on the White House to take a much bigger supply role instead of nudging states and industry to step up. (3:50) (N/NPR)

04/07: School districts are moving away from the video conference platform Zoom because of privacy and harassment concerns. This is causing confusion and an unclear path forward for teachers and students. (3:30) (N/NPR)

04/08: Here are the latest coronavirus statistics...from WPR's Melissa Ingalls. (:60) (/WPR)

04/07: People and businesses everywhere are feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the health and economic effects are showing up in some communities more than others. And in some companies more than others. Hear how the new coronavirus is affecting black-owned businesses today on the Marketplace Morning Report. (2:30) (MMR)

04/07: Racine County has recorded its second COVID-19 death. The patient was described as a man in his 70s. Over the weekend, an 85-year-old Kenosha man died--the first Kenosha County resident to pass because of COVID-19. In addition to the Racine County death, six more COVID-19 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours in Milwaukee County. (:30) (N)

04/07: Pick 'n' Save has become the latest company to limit the number of shoppers at any given time in its stores. The new policy takes effect Tuesday. To monitor the foot traffic, Pick 'n' Save will use existing technology that was originally put in place to determine how many check-out lanes should be open. (:30) (N)

04/07: Kenosha Unified is in the middle of a massive effort to distribute laptop computers to students who don't have ways to learn online at home. District spokeswoman Tanya Ruder says 7,000 Chromebooks are being handed out to parents via a curbside-styled delivery approach at each school. When parents drive up, a staff member radios in the name, and another staffer comes out with the assigned laptop which is then placed into the trunk or the back of the vehicle in order to minimize contact. The Chromebooks were previously purchased by the district. They're to be returned when the crisis ends. (:60) (N)

04/07: Foxconn may soon be manufacturing badly-needed respirators at its new campus in Mt. Pleasant. The word came in a CNBC interview with the owner of Minnesota-based Medtronic, a contract-maker of medical devices. He says Medtronics is working with Foxconn to begin production of ventilators in Mt. Pleasant within the next four to six weeks. Although a million-square-foot manufacturing facility is still under construction, a smaller multi-purpose building has been up and running for some time. (:60) (N)

04/07: Wisconsin farmers might have trouble getting loans for their spring planting because of the coronavirus pandemic. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/08: Data emerging from a few cities and states suggests higher death rates for African-Americans from COVID-19. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/08: Researchers are increasingly convinced that some of the sickest COVID-19 patients may actually be under attack from their own immune system. This finding could lead to new treatments. (3:31) (N/NPR)

04/08: The unprecedented job cuts associated with the coronavirus pandemic have disproportionately affected women. (3:47) (N/NPR)

04/08: Even before the pandemic driven economic downturn, the typical American household didn't have much in savings to draw on in an emergency. The biggest pot of savings for many workers is their retirement savings plans, assuming their employer offers one. That money isn't supposed to be tapped until retirement. But the coronavirus rescue package made it easier to gain access to the money. (2:30) (MMR)

04/08: A steady statewide drop in the number of new coronavirus cases may not be as hopeful as it sounds, according to Jen Freiheit, director of the Kenosha County Health Dept. In a telephone briefing to the county board and the community as a whole, Freiheit said testing issues are still a factor. (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N)

04/08: The spring election is long over but the results won't be in until next week. The COVID-19-marred exercise in democracy lurched forward yesterday, giving voters who went to the polls a wide variety of experiences, including long lines, no lines and drive-thru voting. Under a federal judge's order, results won't be released until Monday afternoon, giving tabulators time to count massive stacks of absentee ballots. Mailed-in ballots will only be counted if they have yesterday's postmark. Reaction from voters ranged from concern over being infected if they voted in person, to resentment that the election wasn't delayed to nonchalance. (2 separate stories) (4:00) (N)

04/08: Looking for something to do? In Kenosha, if you're charged with yard maintenance, it's now a bit easier to get a jump on the spring clean-up. The city has announced that it'll begin curbside pick-up of yard waste three weeks early, in part because the opening of the city's drop-off site has been delayed over pandemic concerns. The pick-ups will begin on Monday. (:45) (N)

04/08: The Racine Fire Department responds to all kinds of emergencies. Now the ‘boots’ will be going out on a far different type of call. Depending on availability, fire trucks will be dispatched to help kids who are home-bound by the coronavirus celebrate their birthdays. (:30) (N)

04/09: The CDC has issued new guidelines for when critical workers exposed to COVID-19 should return to their jobs. (3:00) (N/NPR)

04/09: The Internal Revenue Service is under pressure to distribute cash payments to Americans struggling because of the coronavirus pandemic. But the agency is dealing with budget cuts and staff issues. (3:57) (N/NPR)

04/09: Newly released revisions to a well-respected COVID-19 model translates into good news for the United States. The number of Americans expected to die from the coronavirus has been lowered. (4:45) (N/NPR)

04/09: Neil Bradley of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce talks to NPR's David Greene about the congressional coronavirus relief fund for small businesses. The next relief package will likely replenish the fund. (5:15) (N/NPR)

04/09: Staffers at Gateway Technical College's Fab Lab at the iMET Center in Sturtevant have joined the ranks of others who are producing personal protective equipment for health care workers and emergency responders. John Zehren and Adam Reed are using 3D printers to manufacture what they call a "mask tension relief band." It's a plastic piece worn behind the head to keep masks in place. They take the place of elastic bands that loop around the ears. Those bands can become uncomfortable over time. The Fab Lab techs are also in the process of developing plastic shields. (:60) (N)

04/09: In response to the pandemic, Racine-based Twin Disc is laying off staff and cutting pay to result in an annual savings of \$4.1 million. According to a news release, ten salaried employees will be temporarily laid off. The paid hours of some other salaried workers will be cut by 25%. There'll be a 15% reduction in salaries for all remaining full-time employees and a 20% reduction for the CEO and COO. Twin Disc designs, makes and sells power transmission equipment. CEO John Batten said the company is also seeking relief under the recently-passed "CARES Act." (:60) (N)

04/14: In last night's fiercely combative White House Coronavirus Taskforce briefing, President Trump attacked the media, played what sounded like a campaign ad, and drew a battle line between the federal government and states over the authority to reopen the US economy. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/14: NPR's Steve Ins keep talks to Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker about the president's claim that the federal government has the ultimate authority to determine when COVID-19 restrictions should be lifted. (5:00) (N/NPR)

04/14: As the coronavirus spreads across the country, many people are faced with an impossible choice: follow social distancing guidelines, or expose yourself to the virus to care for elderly parents. (7:28) (N/NPR)

04/14: Kenosha County has reported its first COVID-19 cases in a long-term care facility. And Kenosha County Sheriff Dave Beth tells the Kenosha News that five staff members of the Kenosha County Jail at the Public Safety Building and at the Kenosha County Detention Center near the airport have testified positive for the virus. Beth says the five staff members had been quarantined with symptoms before the positive test results came back. The results of tests done on additional staff members are pending. Meanwhile, five residents and two employees of Parkside Manor at 6300 67th St. have tested positive. (:90) (N)

04/14: For families that share custody of kids---staying at home practicing social distancing can be confusing and frustrating. So---that raises the questions: is it safe to exchange kids between households during this pandemic. As WPR's Bridget Bowden explains---court orders are still in place and in effect---leaving some parents fearful for their kids' health and safety---while leaving others feeling their kids could be kept away from them for those very reasons. (4:00) (N/WPR)

04/15: The Wisconsin Assembly approved a sweeping coronavirus relief bill in the Legislature's first virtual session. About two-thirds of the Assembly's 99 members participated in Tuesday afternoon's session via videoconference out of fears of contracting the virus. They approved the bill 97-2. The Senate is holding a similar session today to send the bill to Democratic Governor Tony Evers. (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N0 (N/WPR)

04/15: Governor Tony Evers says it could be at least another month before he starts to relax social distancing mandates. The governor said that lifting the mandates won't be "like flipping a switch" and it could be weeks or a month before he starts rolling them back. (:60) (N)

04/15: At his briefing yesterday, President Trump criticized the World Health Organization and said he wants to halt U.S. funding. He accused the organization of "severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus." (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/15: When it comes to restarting the economy, President Trump says he has the power to override governors. Governors say they will set their states' own pace. But they are not looking for a fight on this. (4:58) (N/NPR)

04/15: Racine County has recorded its 6th death as the result of COVID-19. The victim was a man in his 50s who was the first City of Racine resident to die of the disease. Over the holiday weekend, a 35-year-old Mt. Pleasant man succumbed after fighting it for three weeks. Kenosha

County Health Dept. Dir. Jen Freiheit said coronavirus infections in Wisconsin have yet to hit their peak. Outbreaks in Kenosha County have cropped up at the jail and in the detention facility near the airport. Infections have also been confirmed in a nursing home. Racine County Sheriff Christopher Schmaling issued a news release yesterday outlining the nearly dozen-and-a-half steps his jail has taken to guard against the spread of COVID-19. They include working to reduce the jail population by a-quarter and requiring all inmates to wear a mask when outside of their dayroom. So far no inmate has tested positive, according to Schmaling. A staff member with a confirmed case was immediately quarantined and has since made a full recovery. (2 separate stories) (4:00) (N)

04/15: Any attempts to describe COVID-19 disease as comparable to the seasonal flu are misguided, according to Frank Hicks, Director of Nursing at Carthage College. (2:00) (N)

04/15: It's time for another edition of Wisconsin Public Radio's award-winning series titled "Wisconsin Life." Today---we hear about parenting during the coronavirus pandemic. (4:30) (N/WPR)

04/16: A number of questions about housing have been shared with WPR's WHYsconsin. So---several experts discussed how to pay for housing expenses---what to do about showing a house or apartment---and---what to do if you're being removed from your home. (3:40) (N/WPR)

04/16: The president promises guidance today for when states can reopen their economies. He's holding a conference call with state governors. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/16: While many world leaders have seen their popularity increase during the pandemic, only a few seem to have captured the national mood in a way that has helped them lead their citizens. (7:40) (N/NPR)

04/16: Sheltering in place, it turns out, means one thing to most people and another to some of the country's wealthiest, who have been posting on social media from their yachts or mega mansions. (3:42) (N/NPR)

04/16: So how do you teach a hands-on course like welding online? In the COVID-19 era of teaching, Gateway Technical College welding instructor Kyle Worzalla says you do it by being flexible and creative, using the latest technology and harboring an expectation of eventually being able to return with your students to the welding lab. (:90) (N)

04/16: Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave and Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce President Matt Montemurro have announced the creation of a task force to make recommendations on how to reopen local businesses that were shut down at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. (:60) (N)

04/16: Kenosha Harbor Market canceled its indoor, winter market when stay-at-home took effect. Now its studying the future of this year's outdoor market on 2nd Ave. and Plaza Douai.

The market's board of directors says in an email that it's inclined to proceed with the market, but has not yet set an opening date. When the market does open, organizers anticipate a change in the structure of the operation, such as more space between vendors and crowd limitations. (:30) (N)

04/17: The pandemic has given many of us a new layer of fear, anxiety and uncertainty. Amy Champeau, a former Racine-based psychotherapist who now practices online out of Tucson, says you can work to minimize those out-of-control feelings of powerlessness. (:90) (N)

04/17: The 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. (3:45) (N/WPR)

04/17: A University of Wisconsin System regents committee has authorized employee furloughs as campuses---including UW-Parkside---grapple with the coronavirus pandemic's economic fallout. Regents President Andrew Petersen said furloughs will likely be implemented on a rolling basis across groups of schools. (:30) (N)

04/17: And---seven Midwestern governors---including Tony Evers--- announced Thursday that they will coordinate on reopening their state economies. Thursday's announcement covers Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. (:30) (N)

04/17: The Shalom Center, Kenosha's only permanent shelter for the homeless, has been at capacity for the past several weeks. Normally that's not a good thing. But it also means the shelter hasn't had to worry about new clients arriving who potentially could be infected with COVID-19. Center director Tamara Coleman says they've also undertaken a series of intentional steps to control the spread. Guests are encouraged to stay inside. Masks have been provided to clients who do need to venture outside for whatever reason. The nightly soup kitchen only hands out 'grab and go' meals.' (2:00) (N)

04/17: Some Wisconsin Republicans are responding with outrage to Gov. Evers' decision to extend his stay-at-home order for another month. They're threatening to file lawsuits, and fire the state health secretary. Republican State Senator Van Wanggaard, who represents parts of Racine and Kenosha counties, issued a news release criticizing the extension, saying it's not needed in some parts of the state. He also criticized inconsistencies in the policy. Evers defended his approach. He says a few things need to happen before the major tenets of his order can be lifted. (2:00) (N)

04/17: When should states lift social distancing? President Trump unveiled new guidelines, but public health officials say they fall short. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/17: A year to develop a COVID-19 vaccine may seem like a long time, but it typically takes longer. We examine how vaccines are developed, and how researchers are trying to speed things up. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/17: Where exactly did the coronavirus first emerge? Months after it erupted in central China, this question remains a mystery. The U.S. intelligence community is working to make its own assessments. (4:15) (N/NPR)

04/17: President Trump is ready to reopen America -- at least the parts where coronavirus is less of a problem. How has his rhetoric throughout the crisis matched with the reality on the ground? (7:45) (N/NPR)

04/17: The Small Business Administration announced Thursday its Paycheck Protection Program hit its \$349 billion cap. The program, which provides loans to business with fewer than 500 workers, was created to help them retain their employees during the coronavirus pandemic. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/20: NPR's David Greene speaks to Dr. Harvey Fineberg of the National Academy of Medicine's Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats about reopening the economy. (7:00) (N/NPR)

04/20: Nursing homes don't want to take patients who've been hospitalized for COVID-19. Hospitals don't want to keep them any longer than necessary because they need the beds. So where do they go? (3:35) (N/NPR)

04/20: The White House and congressional leaders may be near a deal on a new wave of coronavirus relief funding. The proposal would replenish a small business loan program that ran out of money. (4:30) (N/NPR)

04/20: Across America, frustrated protesters have been rallying, demanding that their governors reopen their state's economies. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/20: With COVID-19 stay-at-home orders still in place, consumers have been stocking up on the essentials, including meat. But can the meat sector's supply chain withstand the extra stress? (3:00) (MMR)

04/20: State regulators might allow utilities to pass along to customers SOME costs they are incurring because of the coronavirus. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/21: President Trump says he will temporarily suspend immigration into the United States because of the coronavirus. The statement came in a tweet on Monday night. There are not many details but the administration has been using the pandemic to justify more restrictions on immigration. (3:45) (N/NPR)

04/21: NPR's Noel King talks to David Wessel of the Hutchins Center at the Brookings Institution about problems plaguing congressional efforts to help small businesses during the COVID-19 crisis. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/21: NPR's David Greene talks to Dr. Bruce Meyer, president of Jefferson Health in Philadelphia, about hospitals competing with each other to get coronavirus test supplies. (5:30) (N/NPR)

04/21: A 10th death due to COVID-19 has been reported in Racine County. According to numbers provided by the state yesterday---new cases and hospitalizations continue to inch upward. The number of deaths in Kenosha and Walworth counties remained the same, at five and six, respectively. Foxconn announced yesterday that it's begun to produce thousands of "procedural" masks in its Mount Pleasant facility. At the same time---a request for help in producing cloth masks and gowns has gone out from Kenosha County. It's asking on behalf of long-term care and assisted living facilities. People who are able to help are asked to email COVID19@kenoshacounty.org. (2:00) (N)

04/21: Racine Police Chief Art Howell and Kenosha County Sheriff Dave Beth have signaled they won't follow the lead of Racine County Sheriff Christopher Schmaling who says he'll be leaving enforcement of Gov. Evers' Safer at Home order up to health investigators. Nine Kenosha non-profits are in line to split over \$650,000 in federal funds that have been allocated to the city to relieve pressures brought on by COVID-19. They include the Kenosha County United Way, the Shalom Center, the Boys & Girls Club, Kenosha YMCA, ELCA Outreach, Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services, Kenosha Community Health Center, the Salvation Army and the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corp. The funding plan is go to before the city council for final approval May 4th. (2:00) (N)

04/22: Republicans who control the Wisconsin Legislature have asked the state Supreme Court to block an extension of the Democratic governor's stay-at-home order. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/22: Wisconsin health officials say they have identified at least seven people who may have contracted the coronavirus from participating in the April 7 election. (:60) (N)

04/22: President Trump has announced a new White House plan to temporarily stop immigrants from coming to the United States. The administration will try to stop the issuance of new green cards for 60 days. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/22: The U.S. Senate has approved a measure to add roughly \$484 billion in new funds to bolster the already record-breaking coronavirus response legislation. The Senate passed the legislation by unanimous consent on Tuesday. House leaders plan a vote for Thursday. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/22: Georgia Republican Gov. Brian Kemp says he is reopening the state based on White House criteria. Soon, hair salons, gyms, restaurants and movie theaters can open despite some opposition and fear. (4:00) (N/PR)

04/22: Since Covid-19 shutdowns began in mid-March, 22 million people have filed for unemployment. The economic pain is wide and deep. But it's not spread equally. That's according to two new reports that show black and Hispanic workers are suffering the worst job- and income losses. (3:00) (MMR)

04/22: Vice President Mike Pence was in Wisconsin yesterday to highlight increased production of ventilators for COVID-19 treatment at a GE plant in Madison. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/23: WPR and Wisconsin Watch are teaming up to document the lives of Wisconsinites during the coronavirus pandemic with a new series titled Outbreak Wisconsin. Mariah Clark is many things. She's a blacksmith, a tall-ship sailor and an EMT. She's also an emergency room nurse at UW Health in Madison, placing her on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic in Dane County. She's been keeping an audio diary to share her experience. (3:38) (N/WPR)

04/23: Kimberly-Clark has ramped up production of toilet paper and other household goods in response to a spike in demand during the coronavirus pandemic. (:30) (N)

04/23: COVID-19 could be contributing indirectly to a spike in the number of fires in Racine--- that have been attributed to careless use of smoking materials. (:30) (N)

04/23: As Georgia and South Carolina move toward re-opening, some public health officials say it's premature. Local elected leaders say they need help to protect their communities. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/23: Colleges are trying to figure out if they can reopen. Should they go all online or some sort of hybrid? Schools are grappling with these questions and more. Researchers weigh in. (3:25) (N/NPR)

04/23: Once a vaccine is developed, there is not going to be enough to supply the world. So who gets the vaccine, and who decides? (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/23: NPR's David Greene speaks with Sarah Hawkes, professor of global public health at University College London, about her research into why more men are dying from the coronavirus than women. (6:49) (N/NPR)

04/23: People are getting stimulus checks from the Federal government to help them get through the coronavirus pandemic. Shamaine Mills talked to some people who have already received their checks---and---others who are still waiting for theirs. (3:15) (N/WPR)

04/24: These are stressful times for parents, many of whom have become their kids' surrogate teachers as schools remain shuttered. It's easier for some parents to guide their child's online learning than for others. Kristen Gustin says she's lucky to be able to work from home, and that her six-year-old daughter Alana has settled in nicely. Sara Smith is a first grade teacher at Curtis Strange Elementary in Kenosha. Through online means and phone calls, teachers are trying to stay in regular contact with their students, to check their academic progress and to make sure they're okay. (2 separate stories) 3:00) (N)

04/24: Kenosha County Sheriff Dave Beth says he's taken both praise and heat for his position to enforce Gov. Evers' stay-at-home order. In a letter explaining his position to the state's sheriffs, Beth said he wished that he hadn't been put in the position of having to make a choice. (:45) (N)

04/24: Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Romer has an idea for reopening the country that balances health concerns with the need to conduct business. NPR's David Greene talks to Romer about his plan. (6:15) (N/NPR)

04/24: More than 3 million homeowners are able to skip making payments as part of a federal plan meant to ease financial stress during the pandemic. But many Americans say they're running into problems with their lenders and are being denied the help Congress intended. (5:02) (N/NPR)

04/24: A Service Employees International Union survey of over 1,000 front line nurses shows that more than 80% say they still don't have enough protective gear like masks, or adequate access to testing. (4:00) (N/NPR)

04/24: Democratic Party chairman Tom Perez says he still expects to hold an in-person convention in Milwaukee to nominate Joe Biden for president---though he didn't rule out the potential that portions of the event would be conducted virtually. (:30) (N)

04/27: A biochemical research company has opened up a new site in Illinois to sterilize used N95 medical masks with hydrogen peroxide gas as the need for them has increased due to the coronavirus pandemic. (:30) (N)

04/27: The UW Health medical director for infection control says older people need to be staying home, not looking after children, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/27: Older teens and young adults face many challenges during social distancing. Psychologists say some of the most significant include the loss of milestones of achievement such as graduations. (3:57) (N/NPR)

04/27: These extraordinary times will eventually give way to a new normal. The newfound vigilance against contagion may signal the end of hugs, hand-shakes -- and even salad bars. (6:55) (N/NPR)

4/27: Concerts and festivals around the world have been cancelled for months now because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Smaller venues like bars are shut down too. Hear how musicians are adapting to performing without crowds today on the Marketplace Morning Report. (3:00) (MMR)

04/27: The number of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise both locally and statewide. In Wisconsin, 224 new cases were reported yesterday from the day before. The death

toll grew by six. In the tri-county region of Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties, no new deaths were reported, but the number of cases continues to rise. (:60) (N)

04/27: In addition to having to make a slew of short-term decisions because of the virus shutdown, school districts have launched some long-term visioning. Speaking on WGTD's Education Matters program this past Saturday, Kenosha Unified Superintendent Sue Savaglio-Jarvis says at the top of her list is finding a way to offer students guaranteed internet access in order to facilitate a greater degree of online learning. (:90) (N)

04/27: The lights are coming back on in a few classrooms and labs at Gateway Technical College. Vicki Hulback, dean of the school's health sciences programs, says students enrolled in a few programs will be finishing up the semester by demonstrating competencies in subject matters. (:90) (N)

04/28: A new---mobile COVID-19 testing site will open later this week on the Kenosha campus of Gateway Technical College. It's a joint venture between the Kenosha Community Health Center---the Kenosha County Division of Health--- and---Gateway. *Members of the Wisconsin National Guard will be deployed to Kenosha to facilitate mass COVID-19 testing of inmates and staff at the Kenosha County Detention Center---near the airport---and---at the Pretrial Facility at the Public Safety Building. *Kenosha and Racine counties have reported two COVID-19 deaths apiece in the last couple of days. In Kenosha County, the deaths of two men—ages 83 and 80—brought that county's total up to 9. Racine County's death toll from the disease now stands at 12. (3 separate stories) (:90) (N)

04/28: NPR's Rachel Martin talks with Stephen Hahn, the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, about how his agency is ensuring that the country has enough high-quality coronavirus tests for everyone who needs one. (7:00) (N/NPR)

04/28: The spread of coronavirus in jails, prisons and immigrant detention centers is likely much more rampant than what's known right now. Limited testing already shows widespread infection. (7:08) (N/NPR)

04/28: The term “contact tracing” is being used a lot at the moment. It's a way to notify us if we've been in contact with a person infected with COVID-19. Health authorities say it's crucial as part of plans to reopen businesses, and the economy. Technology can be used to help. Apple and Google are set to release a smartphone tool this week. Hear how it could work today on the Marketplace Morning Report. (2:30) (MMR)

04/28: Even as Wisconsin starts to take steps to reopen in the upcoming weeks and months, a Milwaukee medical leader says COVID-19 will remain for some time and social distancing will be a part of residents' lives for months to come. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/28: Starting Monday, Wisconsin's small businesses can apply for the second round of the Paycheck Protection Program from federal officials. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/29: Adrian Lathan is one of the thousands of people---here in Wisconsin---who has tested positive for the coronavirus. Her father---Gerald Coleman---died from the virus.

Now---she is telling her family's story hoping it will urge others to take precautions during the pandemic. She recently spoke with WPR's Megan Hart. (3:43) (N/WPR)

04/29: Thirty-four Wisconsin state parks and recreational areas---closed for three weeks---will be able to reopen Friday as temperatures increase across the state and cases of coronavirus level off. Governor Tony Evers announced the re-openings on Tuesday. But---public bathrooms in all of the parks statewide will remain closed. (:30) (N)

04/29: Attorney General Josh Kaul is telling the state Supreme Court that Governor Evers' administration has broad authority to issue a stay-at-home order to protect state residents from the coronavirus. Republican legislators asked the court earlier this month to block the stay-at-home order, arguing state Department of Health Services Secretary Andrea Palm needed legislative approval before she issued it. (:90) (N/WPR)

04/29: The coronavirus is taking an unprecedented toll on American lives and livelihoods. The U.S. economy is expected to post its first negative quarter report today, after the longest economic expansion on record. (6:30) (N/NPR)

04/29: Ford's latest earnings report showed it lost two billion dollars in the first quarter of 2020. It also expects to lose another five billion dollars in the second quarter as it deals with COVID-19-related shutdowns. (2:00) (MMR)

04/29: President Trump says he'll invoke the Defense Protection Act to keep meatpacking plants open. OSHA issued new worker safety guidelines, but some labor representatives say they don't go far enough. (5:00) (N/NPR)

04/29: The City of Kenosha has cancelled all of its 4th of July activities. ("60) (N)

04/30: Healthcare workers---and others---are concerned about the shortage of facemasks where they work. (:60) (N/WPR)

04/30: Local health officials are keeping an eye on food processing plants in Kenosha and Walworth counties. A man in his 50s who worked at the Calumet meat packaging plant in Pleasant Prairie died two weeks ago from COVID-19, according to a report in the Journal Sentinel. The president of Kenosha Beef tells the Kenosha News that his plant has been working with health department staffers to limit infections. And in Walworth County, the Birds Eye plant in Darien is closed because 100 workers there tested positive. (:90) (N)

04/30: The date that COVID-19 is expected to peak in the area has been pushed back several times. It's not an indication of poor planning, but rather it's a sign that 'Safer at Home' is working, according to Kenosha County Health Department Director Jen Freiheit. (:90) (N)

04/30: The anti-viral drug, remdesivir, was developed to treat Ebola but never worked well. New research is looking into whether it could be effective for COVID-19 patients. (4:30) (N/NPR)

04/30: Most dental offices are closed due to the coronavirus, and that's a challenge for both employees and patients. Treating dental emergencies can be risky. (3:42) (N/NPR)

04/30: The coronavirus means more people are dying alone in ICUs. Families are having to make abrupt decision

04/30: The non-profit Racine Zoo is in financial trouble. Even though the zoo is closed to the public---its employees are still there taking care of the more than 300 animals housed there. Budget shortfalls will likely cause serious problems for employees and the animals in the near future. (:30) (N)

05/01: As stay-at-home and shelter-in-place orders begin to be lifted, state governments are weighing economic and health considerations about when to go back to business as usual. (5:15) (N/NPR)

05/01: Barring a State Supreme Court ruling overturning Governor Tony Evers' current Safer at Home policy---businesses around the state will be allowed to re-open following certain health and safety guidelines on Tuesday May 26th. In a Friday morning webinar titled What's Next For Kenosha? ---hosted by KABA---the Kenosha Area Business Alliance---County Executive Jim Kreuser wanted to put the brakes on people's expectations about what will happen then. (:60) (N)

05/01: Wisconsin's chamber of commerce is urging state legislators to adopt ITS business reopening plan. Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce Executive Vice President Scott Manley says Governor Tony Evers' safer-at-home order is crushing the economy and that the coronavirus now appears under control in the state. (:45) (N)

05/01: A new survey finds that the coronavirus pandemic is taking a toll on Americans' mental health and stress levels. Roughly two-thirds of Americans say they felt nervous, depressed, lonely or hopeless---at least one of the past seven days. The survey finds women and young adults are especially likely to say they have felt emotional distress. (:30) (N)

05/04: Barring a State Supreme Court ruling overturning Governor Tony Evers' current Safer at Home policy---businesses around the state will be allowed to re-open following certain health and safety guidelines on Tuesday May 26th. In a recent webinar titled What's Next For Kenosha?

---hosted by KABA---the Kenosha Area Business Alliance---County Executive Jim Kreuser said he is working in concert with Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave to make sure both counties re-open in a similar manner. (:60) (N)

05/04: The Wisconsin Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments Tuesday in a lawsuit seeking to block an extension of Governor Tony Evers' safer-at-home order. (:30) (N)

05/04: A judge says four Wisconsin strip clubs should be eligible to receive emergency loans offered by the federal government to offset losses due to the coronavirus. U.S. District Judge Lynn Adelman issued a preliminary injunction in favor of the owners of four Silk Exotic Gentleman's Clubs in Milwaukee and Middleton. (:30) (N)

05/04: Early on in the coronavirus pandemic there were fears about a shortage of ventilators to treat COVID19 patients. States---including Wisconsin---even developed guidelines for who should receive a ventilator IF supplies were to run short. But---as WPR's Bram Sable-Smith reports---some doctors are changing their thinking on the use of those ventilators (3:31) (N/WPR)

05/04: Senators return to the Capitol on Monday, after they left in March following their last formal gathering. There are new public health guidelines for the chamber. (4:15) (N/NPR)

05/04: Meatpacking workers have been ordered back on the job to plants where COVID-19 cases had spread. While OSHA issued new safety guidelines, some wonder whether they protect workers or employers. (4:19) (N/NPR)

05/04: The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development estimates more than 700,000 state residents could be out of work because of the coronavirus pandemic. WPR's Rich Kremer recently spoke with some of those newly unemployed people. (3:45) (N/WPR)

05/05: New data expected to be released today will indicate that at least 135,000 Americans could die of COVID-19. The CDC is also presenting new data suggesting infection and death rates will be on the higher end of previous projections. (6:15) (N/NPR)

05/05: In dozens of states, businesses can now legally re-open, but employers are worried about liabilities they may face. Coming up we ask a big question: Could workers sue business owners if they contract COVID-19 while on the job? (5:00) (N/NPR)

05/05: Republican legislative leaders are talking with Democratic Gov. Tony Evers about opening some parts of Wisconsin less affected by the coronavirus pandemic sooner than others. The meeting came one day before the Wisconsin Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in a case brought by Republican legislative leaders seeking to block Evers' "safer at home" order that is slated to run until May 26. (:60) (N/WPR)

05/05: Testing continues to be a focus of efforts to combat the coronavirus. Gov. Evers announced that residents and staff at all long-term care facilities in Wisconsin will be tested. It's still not possible, though, for anyone who wants a test to get one. Referrals are still needed. The number of confirmed cases of the disease continues to rise both statewide and locally. In Racine County yesterday, two new deaths were reported, bringing the total to 15. (:60) (N)

05/06: Conservative justices---who control the Wisconsin Supreme Court---are raising questions about the legality of Gov. Tony Evers' administration's safer-at-home order. The court heard oral arguments Tuesday in a lawsuit Republican legislators filed challenging the order. (:60) (N)

05/06: There are 8,566 positive cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin as of Tuesday---according to the state Department of Health Services. That's an increase of 330 cases from the day before. (:30) (N)

05/06: The City of Racine is on record in support of Gov. Evers' battle with the Republican-controlled legislature over his 'Stay-at-Home' order. Voting last night, the city council affirmed an emergency action taken by Mayor Mason to file a legal brief in support of the governor's position. The move came as the number of new, confirmed coronavirus cases in the city and neighboring Wind Point and Elmwood Park hit a new daily high of 32. (:90) (N)

05/06: Dr. Ali Khan, former Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, talks about what the U.S. needs to do to prepare for the possibility of a second stronger wave of COVID-19 cases. (7:00) (N/NPR)

05/06: The bank accounts of dead individuals are receiving Coronavirus relief payments of up to \$1,200 -- a problem that could impact millions of American families. (4:04) (N/NPR)

05/06: Vice President Pence says the coronavirus task force will wind down in late May or early June. And, a whistleblower alleges the Trump administration ignored warnings of a pandemic. (4:15) (N/NPR)

05/07: A Milwaukee business group is encouraging Governor Tony Evers to begin re-opening the state as early as May 11th. (:60) (N/WPR)

05/07: The new reality of social distancing conflicts with tightly packed airplanes. For now, airlines are blocking out middle seats and taking other measures. What happens when more travelers come back? (3:54) (N/NPR)

05/07: President Trump intends to cut off funds to the WHO because he says it failed to scrutinize China's initial response to the coronavirus. The U.S. is already behind in its dues to the organization. (3:54) (N/NPR)

05/07: A pop-up COVID-19 testing station will open in Burlington Monday for anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Referrals or appointments are not necessary. (:30) (N)

05/08: The monthly jobs report from the Labor Department will be one for this history books and not in a good way. It's expected to show millions of jobs were lost in April while the unemployment rate soared to its highest level since the Great Depression. (5:45) (N/NPR)

05/08: About a third of Americans are working from home because of the pandemic. The technology that enables this has been around for many years, but it took a pandemic to force the move to remote work. (3:46) (N/NPR)

05/08: Wisconsin Republicans---in rural parts of the state---are now joining with business owners to push for a regional reopening plan to give the economy a boost as it struggles under the coronavirus pandemic. The state Department of Workforce Development also sounded a warning that the state fund that pays unemployment claims could run out of money in five months. (:90) (N/WPR)

05/08: A Racine factory temporarily closed yesterday because of COVID-19, and there are signs of trouble at several other workplaces, as talk turns to finding ways to re-open the state's economy. The InSinkErator plant on 21st St. in Racine is closed for cleaning after two of the plant's 650 employees tested positive for the virus. According to a report in the Journal Times, the factory is expected to re-open next week. (2:00) (N)

05/11: COVID19 has moved like a wave over communities---here in Wisconsin. Growing rapidly in Milwaukee in march---then spreading throughout much of the state. (:60) (N/WPR)

05/11: The coronavirus has moved inside the White House. At least two staffers tested positive for COVID-19 late last week, and as a result, three top health officials are self-quarantining. (4:00) (N/NPR)

05/11: Distancing, sanitizing and minimizing the number of common touchpoints are the main themes in the state's reopening guidelines. They present a glimpse of what life will be like in the months ahead. (2:00) (N)

05/12: As the state continues to see the number of corona virus cases grow---they city of Milwaukee's communities of color have been hit particularly hard. Back in March---Governor Tony Evers called African-American deaths---in Milwaukee---a crisis within a crisis. Since then---nearly ½ of the cases---and---deaths---in the city---have been minorities. (3:30) (N/WPR)

05/12: The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene is asking the state's clinical labs to share information about whether they're conducting antibody tests for COVID-19. Coronavirus antibody tests are one potential tool to measure whether people might have immunity to the disease. (:60) (N/WPR)

05/12: There's light at the end of the COVID tunnel for some small business owners. Gov. Evers is allowing retailers to reopen, as long as they limit the number of customers at any given time to no more than 5. (:90) (N)

05/13: Many people are trying to cope with the stress---fear---and---anxiety brought on by the COVID-19. As WPR's Danielle Kading reports---organizations that work to connect people with mental health services---are seeing a surge in calls for help. (4:00) (N/WPR)

05/13: Support for Governor Tony Evers safer-at-home order is faltering. Nearly seven out of 10 Wisconsin residents **STILL** support it but that's down from six weeks ago. (:30) (N)

05/13: Projections of deaths from COVID-19 vary wildly. How are we to make sense of the differences? One researcher has developed one model that compares and merges them all. (3:10) (N/NPR)

05/13: Uncertain and troubling times for small businesses are expected to linger even after coronavirus-related restrictions ease. Representatives of five companies spoke during a Kenosha Area Business Alliance webinar yesterday. Riki Tagliapietra is managing director of the Grease & Honey Restaurant Group, which includes Sazzy B in downtown Kenosha. When forced to close in March, the restaurant built up a successful take-out and delivery business. Now Tagliapietra is planning for when restaurants will be allowed to partially reopen. He admits it's a day that he'll both welcome and fear. (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N)

05/13: Racine Mayor Cory Mason says he expects that free, no-appointment-needed COVID-19 testing will be available in his city soon. (:60) (N)

05/14: The Wisconsin National Guard has collected more than 23,000 tests for coronavirus as they support health officials' efforts to increase testing capacity statewide. Danielle Kading reports several rural communities have collected far fewer tests than they had hoped for. (:60) (N/WPR)

05/14: The Wisconsin Supreme Court has struck down Governor Tony Evers' safer-at-home order and most of its restrictions. (:60) (N/WPR)

05/14: Health officers for the City of Racine---and---Kenosha County issued orders last night that extend Governor Tony Evers' Safer at Home restrictions that had been struck down just hours earlier by the state supreme court. The new declarations expire May 26th just as Evers' order would've. (2 separate stories) (4:00) (N)

05/14: Richard Bright, the high-ranking federal scientist turned whistleblower, will testify before a house subcommittee Thursday. He says the 'window of opportunity' to fight COVID-19 is closing. (3:45) (N/NPR)

05/14: Medical workers are seeing more anxiety, depression, grief and sadness in pregnant women. This can lead to more stress and increase the risk for complications during pregnancy. (3:55) (N/NPR)

05/14: The state of the jobs market has Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell really worried. The coronavirus pandemic has triggered the largest job losses since the Great Depression. (3:45_ (N/NPR)

05/15: The House is set to vote Friday on a \$3 trillion coronavirus aid package. It was written entirely by Democrats, and Republicans are not on board. (4:00) (N/NPR)

05/15: In response to differing and updated legal guidance, Kenosha County is immediately withdrawing its local action that continued the provisions of the state's Safer-at-Home Order, Health Officer Dr. Jen Freiheit announced last night. Meanwhile---Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave signals he's comfortable with the Central Racine County Health Department's decision against extending Governor Tony Evers' Safer at Home order. (2 separate stories) (3:30) (N)

05/18: Wisconsin's summer tourism season kicks off with the Memorial Day weekend. But---the coronavirus pandemic is a cloud hanging over the state's tourism industry. (:60) (N/WPR)

05/18: In March, Congress set aside more than \$14 billion to help higher education weather the COVID-19 outbreak. Here's where that money has gone, and why many colleges are holding out for more. (3:34) (N/NPR)

05/18: In some cases, online instruction is no substitute for in-person teaching. Both Kenosha and Racine unified are offering online lessons and paper packets. There's no word on just how many students are taking advantage of the instruction. There is anecdotal evidence. Speaking on Education Matters Saturday, two teachers at Julian Thomas Elementary in Racine said most of their contacts with students occur over the phone. (2:00) (N)

05/19: As states around the country lift restrictions and businesses reopen, many workers at restaurants, hair salons, and other close-contact type jobs are scared for their health and would rather stay on unemployment. Others say they can't work because their kids' schools remain closed. We look at what options workers have. (4:07) (N/NPR)

05/19: The Kenosha City Council is expected to meet in special session this week to consider a proposal from Mayor John Antaramian to require that retailers in the city require their employees to wear masks. In a conversation with WGTD Morning Show host Greg Berg, Antaramian said city staff has been researching ways in which the city could legally exert some control in the wake of the supreme court decision last week that invalidated Gov. Evers' "Safer at Home." (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N)

05/19: The state of Illinois is still under a stay-at-home order. Wisconsin is not. Now---people from Illinois are flocking to bars and restaurants across the state line on Kenosha and Racine. (:60) (N/WPR)

05/20: The coronavirus pandemic has led to a hunger crisis, with some food banks struggling to meet growing needs. (5:30) (N/NPR)

05/20: A bit of a dust up in Lake Geneva.

According to the Lake Geneva Regional News---the long-time managers of the city's popular Riviera Beach have quit because the city council voted to re-open the beach to the public starting this Saturday---in time for the big Memorial Day weekend. (:30) (N)

05/20: The City of Racine's local extension of 'Safer at Home' is expected to expire next Tuesday, the day after Memorial Day. It's to be replaced by phased-in, reopening guidelines that are expected to be released before the end of the week, and by a new order from Racine Public Health Administrator Dottie-Kay Bowersox. She's signed an enforceable order that prohibits mass gatherings until the end of July. The order is expected to wipe out such things as concerts, festivals, block parties and sporting events. (2 separate stories) (4:00) (N)

05/20: Over 30,000 Wisconsinites with disabilities require some level of care and support. And--MOST of that is done in-person---even during the coronavirus pandemic. WPR's Bram Sable-Smith reports that THAT makes people-with-disabilities particularly dependent on the behavior and actions of the broader community. (3:30) (N/WPR)

05/21: As more businesses open up---here in Wisconsin---health officials are concerned about the spread of the coronavirus. So---they are urging people to take precautions when out in public--including---wearing a face mask. (3:40) (N/WPR)

05/21: The White House says coronavirus indicators are trending down across most of the U.S., but are a concern in Washington, D.C., Chicago and Los Angeles. City health officials say progress is being made. (8:00) (N/NPR)

05/21: Even though 'Safer at Home' is no longer in effect, Kenosha County hasn't yet turned the corner on the pandemic, according to Kenosha County Health Department Director Jen Freiheit. (2 stories) (3:30) (N)

05/22: NPR's Noel King speaks with Dr. Anthony Fauci, a leading member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, about plans to reopen the country and the race to develop a coronavirus vaccine. (11:15) (N/NPR)

05/22: Seventeen Wisconsin residents have filed a federal lawsuit alleging that local stay-at-home orders are unconstitutional. The lawsuit challenges the local orders that took effect after

the Wisconsin Supreme Court last week overturned Governor Tony Evers' statewide "safer at home" order as unconstitutional. (:60) (N/WPR)

05/22: Amazon appears not to be cooperating with health officials following an outbreak of COVID19 at its facility on I-94. ((2 separate stories) (2:00) (N)

05/26: The coronavirus outbreak is driving many public schools toward a financial meltdown. Schools across the country will be asked to do more to help kids -- while also having to cut their budgets. (4:15) (N/NPR)

05/26: After President Trump demanded governors allow houses of worship to reopen immediately, the governors of California and Minnesota eased restrictions. Many houses of worship say they'll remain closed. (2:28) (N/NPR)

05/26: The demand for cloth masks isn't slowing down, according to an organizer of a local mask-making group that flies under the banner "Kenosha Cares." As of last week, Holly Barthuly and her 60 "stitchers", as she calls them, had requests pending for some 800 masks. They've already made nearly 13,000. Most have gone to Kenosha locations, but they've also filled requests that have come from around the country. (:90) (N)

05/26: Three additional COVID-19-related deaths were reported in Racine County yesterday, bringing the county's total to 25, according to numbers provided by the state. Although just seven new cases were recorded, Racine County continues to have the second-highest per capita number of confirmed cases in the state, right behind Brown County and ahead of Milwaukee County. Kenosha County, which reported three new cases Monday, is fourth. Statewide, for the second day in a row, the number of positive cases as a percentage of total tests dropped. (:45) (N)

05/27: NPR's Rachel Martin talks to Margaret Harris of the World Health Organization about whether a second peak of COVID-19 infections could occur during the first wave of the virus. (6:00) (N/NPR)

05/27: There's been a dramatic increase in the number of COVID-19-related deaths in Walworth County. Five new deaths were reported yesterday all residents of long-term care facilities. Walworth County Public Health Officer Erica Bergstrom said all were over the age of 80 and had what she termed "significant" underlying health conditions. Bergstrom said it's a sad reminder of the continuing need to protect those at high risk for serious complications. (:90) (N)

06/04: With the number of coronavirus cases on the rise---Racine has now become a COVID-19 hotspot in the country. (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N)

06/04: New COVID-19 testing availabilities have been announced. (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N)

06/05: NPR's David Greene talks to NPR's Scott Horsley and William Spriggs, chief economist for the AFL-CIO, about the pandemic's effect on unemployment -- especially on minority workers. (6:45) (N/NPR)

06/08: As many as 400,000 workers may leave their homes Monday to go back to jobs in New York City as the national epicenter of the pandemic starts to reopen. It will test the limits of social distancing. (4:30) (N/NPR)

06/09: When it comes to controlling the spread of the coronavirus, stay-at-home orders work. Two new studies published in the journal "Nature" say millions of lives have been saved. (3:08) (N/NPR)

06/09: A pair of Kenosha City Council committees passed a watered-down resolution last night that recommends that employees of licensed establishments wear masks to help minimize the spread of COVID-19. The resolution, as introduced by the mayor, would've made the suggestion mandatory. But the committees approved a version last night that simply recommends the move. The amended version also suggests that employers post their mask-wearing policy at the door. Ald. Keith Rosenberg said he wouldn't have supported a mandate. He said he hopes that businesses will take the hint. (:90) (N)

06/09: Free COVID-19 testing continues to be available in the Kenosha/Racine area. Pick 'n' Save on Highway 50 in Kenosha is once again offering a drive-thru, self-administered nasal swab test. Residents must register online by going to krogerhealth-dot-com. The tests will be available through Saturday afternoon at 1. Last week at Central High School in Paddock Lake, a National Guard team collected near 850 specimens. Another team tested nearly eleven-hundred residents at Tremper High School in Kenosha. All next week, a Guard team will be set up in Racine at Horlick High School. This week a team is testing inmates and staff at the Racine Youthful Offender Correctional facility. :60) (N)

06/10: This summer looks markedly different for Beverly Blietz, who unexpectedly found her movements restricted — due to her age, the virus, and the rules of the independent living facility where she lives in Sister Bay. (4:15) (N/WPR)

06/10: Wisconsin landlord groups are calling on their members to delay evictions as renters continue to struggle during the coronavirus pandemic. Both landlords---and---groups that help tenants---are hoping that a new state assistance program helps. (:60) (N/WPR)

06/10: Troubling signs are emerging that new coronavirus hot spots may have started to erupt around the United States as the country has begun to reopen. (3:45) (N/NPR)

06/10: A disturbing admission from the director of the Kenosha County Health Department as she leads the battle to get people to do their part to rein in the spread of coronavirus. Jen Freiheit told members of the county's Board of Health yesterday that as the pandemic drags on people

have become less willing to avoid large groups, wear masks in public, adhere to social distancing rules, and, if need be, quarantine. (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N)

06/11: Hundreds of thousands of people---here in Wisconsin---are now out-of-work because of the coronavirus pandemic. With no money coming in---many people now find themselves visiting a food pantry for the first time ever. WPR's Danielle Kading reports that food banks and pantries---across the state---are working to meet the demand. (3:40) (N/WPR)

06/11: About a-fifth of the 850 people who were tested for COVID-19 at Central High School in Paddock Lake last week will be asked to get tested again. Kenosha County Health Department Director Jen Freiheit disclosed during her weekly community briefing last night that an unspecified error in collecting and processing the specimens rendered 170 tests useless. (:90) (N)

06/12: Operation Warp Speed, the administration's crash project to develop vaccines for COVID-19, is making decisions behind closed doors about which companies to back. A look at where things are headed. (3:50) (N/NPR)

06/15: Just one new coronavirus-related death was reported Sunday in Wisconsin along with 240 new cases. (:60) (N)

06/15: Businesses across Wisconsin are cautiously re-opening not knowing how MANY customers to expect with COVID-19 still a threat. Some employees have mixed feelings about re-opening---but---as Shamaine Mills reports---many are desperate for a paycheck. (3:40) (N/WPR)

06/16: Cows may turn out to be of help in the pandemic. A South Dakota biotech company is using cows to create antibodies that could then be used for disease prevention or treatment. (3:26) (N/NPR)

06/17: Months of practicing social distancing to slow the spread of the coronavirus have led to a surge in on-line sales---but---as WPR's Sean Johnson reports---it won't be enough to offset Wisconsin's state budget problems. (:60) (N/WPR)

06/17: Because of the coronavirus pandemic---health care providers have tried to limit the number of non-virus patients admitted to medical facilities. But---sometimes care CANNOT wait. WPR's Corrine Hess reports on HOW cancer patients are now weighing getting their treatments versus possibly contracting the coronavirus. (4:00) (N/WPR)

06/22: Many Wisconsin Indian Tribes have been re-opening their casinos as they lift---or---eased---stay-at-home orders that were put-in-place because of the coronavirus pandemic. WPR's Danielle Kading reports that Wisconsin's 11 Tribes are among 240 Tribes---nationwide---that could lose \$22-billion dollars in revenues---according to the Wisconsin State Journal. (:60) (N/WPR)

06/22: Given the rise in COVID-19 cases, public health officials warn people to be more vigilant when they're out. Is there a safe way to visit grandma and grandpa and other elderly relatives or friends? (7:15) (N/NPR)

06/24: Recent days have seen surges in coronavirus cases in numerous states, President Trump's statements that this is due to increased testing and a hearing on Capitol Hill with federal health officials. NPR's Rachel Martin speaks with Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of infectious diseases at the National Institutes of Health. (9:30) (N/NPR)

06/24: National Guard COVID-19 community testing will take place in the area through next week. The second of two days of testing will occur today in the parking lot of Kenosha's Municipal Building on 52nd St. The Guard will be in Burlington next week Tuesday and Wednesday. No appointment is needed and the tests are free. In Racine, Ascension Medical Group will offer tests tomorrow and Friday. Appointments are required for those tests. And the Kenosha Community Health Center continues to offer tests on Gateway's Kenosha campus on a daily basis. (:45) (N)

06/25: Governors of Arizona, Florida and Texas are under pressure to do something as coronavirus cases rapidly rise. We check in with reporters in those states on how policies are, or aren't, being modified. (9:00) (N/NPR)

06/25: While acknowledging that many of us are losing patience as the pandemic drags on, Kenosha County Health Department Director Jen Freiheit says the virus is still spreading, even in small, seemingly safe groups. (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N)

06/26: Racine Mayor Cory Mason calls a judge's ruling that prohibits the city from putting phased-in reopening restrictions on businesses and non-profits "extremely troubling." Decisions by Racine County Judge Jon Fredrickson have prevented the city from enforcing administrative rules that were authorized by city health officer Dottie Kay-Bowersox then later affirmed Monday by the city council in a 9-5 vote that put the plan in ordinance form. Fredrickson, who found the restrictions to be unconstitutional, accused city officials of trying to undermine his authority by passing the ordinance, and he questioned the city's motives. (:90) (N)

06/26: Gateway Technical College says it expects to be fully open---this Fall---but---will have a plan in place that's designed to limit the number of people in its buildings at any one time. In a news release, the school says it'll offer a blended format of on-campus and online learning. The number of students in a typical classroom will be capped at 12. Masks will be required for all students and staff. (:30) (N)

06/26: Texas Governor Greg Abbott has paused the state's economic reopening as COVID-19 cases reach crisis levels. NPR's Rachel Martin speaks with Dr. Cedric Dark, an emergency room doctor in Houston. (4:45) (N/NPR)

Public Health: The Opioid Crisis in Wisconsin and USA

Public Health: The Dangers of Vaping/Illegal Vape Cartridges/Proliferation of Vaping

Health Care: Obamacare Rollout: Follow-Up and Aftermath

