

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: 1st Quarter, January-February-March 2022

Civil Rights/Policing in America: The George Floyd Murder/Jacob Blake Shooting/Other Police Shootings/Policing Procedures:

01/05: Wisconsin Republicans are introducing a package of bills designed to support police departments struggling to attract recruits. Police chiefs said at a news conference Tuesday that the number of officer applicants has dwindled over the last decade and the shortage has become worse over the two years since George Floyd's death. The bills would create incentives and reimbursements ranging from bonuses for new officers, officers who've been on the job for a year and for officers who relocate to Wisconsin from other states. They would also waive hunting and fishing fees for officers, launch a marketing campaign for recruits, and force schools to teach students to how to respect police. (:45) (AP)

01/10: A status hearing is scheduled for later this morning in Kenosha court for the man who bought Kyle Rittenhouse a rifle when he was only 17. Dominick Black has taken a plea deal to avoid criminal conviction. He was initially charged with delivering a dangerous weapon to a minor, resulting in death. The charges relate to the two protesters Rittenhouse fatally shot in Kenosha. (:60) (N)

01/11: The man who bought an AR-15-style rifle for Kyle Rittenhouse has pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor in a deal with prosecutors to avoid prison. Judge Bruce Schroder accepted Dominick Black's plea yesterday. Prosecutors dropped two felony counts of intent to deliver a dangerous weapon to a minor. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor is a non-criminal citation. (:90) (N)

02/01: Jury selection begins Tuesday in the trial of an ex-Louisville Metro Police Department officer for his involvement in the high profile, deadly raid on Breonna Taylor's apartment in March 2020. (3:45) (N/NPR)

02/03: "Sixteen shots and a cover-up" was the rallying cry after a video showed a Chicago police officer killed a black teenager in 2014. On Thursday, Jason Van Dyke gets an early release from prison. (3:30) (N/NPR)

02/15: A federal hate crimes trial is underway for three white men convicted in state court of murdering Ahmaud Arbery. They killed the Black man as he ran through a Georgia neighborhood two years ago. (4:10) (N/NPR)

02/15: NPR's Rachel Martin talks to Georgetown Law Professor Paul Butler about the federal trial of three former Minneapolis police officers, charged with depriving George Floyd of his civil rights. (5:30) (N/NPR)

02/17: Kenosha County's Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission meets tonight. On the agenda is a controversial measure before the state legislature that tries to limit diversity in-services and discussions that take place in entities like local governments and schools that receive partial state funding. Opponents say the measure would curtail honest discussion of such concepts as systemic racism and white privilege. (:90) (N)

02/22: As the jury begins deliberations in the federal hate crimes trial of the killers of Ahmaud Arbery, NPR's A Martinez speaks to Charles Coleman Jr., a civil rights lawyer and former prosecutor. (4:45) (N/NPR)

02/23: A conversation about the trial nearing an end for the 3 ex-police officers charged with violating George Floyd's civil rights. (5:30) (N/NPR)

02/25: Three former Minneapolis police officers have been found guilty of federal crimes for failing to intervene as a fellow officer killed George Floyd by kneeling on his neck. (3:20) (N/NPR)

03/17: The father of the 12-year-old girl who was held to the floor of the Lincoln Middle School cafeteria by a part-time security officer using a knee-to-the-neck spoke to reporters yesterday. Jerrel Perez said he's speaking out because he doesn't want the same thing happening to anyone else's child. (3 separate stories) (4:00) (N)

03/18: The security officer at Lincoln Middle School in Kenosha who used a knee-to-the-neck tactic against a 12-year-old girl involved in a fight has resigned. (:90) (N)

Public Health: The Spread of the Coronavirus & Vaccine News

01/03: The U.S. is now averaging between 300,000 and 400,000 new cases of COVID-19 each day. That's leading to difficult questions over cancelling events and having students back in the classroom. (5:45) (N/NPR)

01/03: Kids in Racine Unified have a couple of extra days off. The district's winter break is being extended by two days because of COVID. Students won't have to report now until Wednesday. However, staff goes back to work today as scheduled. (:60) (N)

01/04: NPR's A Martinez speaks with Dr. Leana Wen, a physician and George Washington University public health professor, about CDC isolation guidance and advice for a possible post-holiday COVID surge. (5:30) (N/NPR)

01/04: Under pressure to keep schools open despite a surge in COVID, Kenosha Unified has decided to continue to hold in-person classes. The school board—meeting in special session last night—accepted an administration recommendation to make no changes to the district's COVID response plan. This, despite a steady increase in the number of students in quarantine for either testing positive or being exposed to someone who tested positive. (3 separate stories) (5:00) (N)

01/04: With COVID surging again, business is booming at hospitals, so much so, that embattled hospital workers are having a hard time keeping up. (:60) (N)

01/05: The question of what "fully vaccinated" means might be changing as booster shots are becoming more important. More data - and new policies - are emerging in the U.S. and around the world. (8:45) (N/NPR)

01/05: A popular COVID testing location in Kenosha isn't currently endorsed by the Kenosha County Health Department. But that could change soon. (:90) (N)

01/05: COVID-19 at-home tests are getting harder and harder to find these days. The Kenosha News is reporting that area pharmacies are running low OR are completely out of the kits just as the highly contagious Omicron variant is spreading across our area. (:45) (N)

01/06: The new CDC guidelines for COVID-19 isolation and quarantine have garnered a lot of criticism. And this is just one example of the agency's on going communication problems. (4:15) (N/NPR)

01/06: Some breakthrough cases of COVID among the cast and crew of the Racine Theatre Guild's production of "Nunsense" is delaying the start of the production. (:90) (N)

01/06: Also Wednesday, the Racine Police Department announced that its lobby has been closed to the public due to COVID concerns. All business will be handled at the drive-thru. The closure is expected to last 14 days. (:30) (N)

01/07: Rapid tests for COVID-19 are proving difficult to find for many Americans. The Biden administration says relief is on the way. But what's behind the supply challenges? (4:00) (N/NPR)

01/10: The U.S. is seeing record high coronavirus cases -- averaging more than 700,000 new cases a day -- and hospitals are seeing huge spikes in admissions. But doctors say this surge is different. (7:30) (N/NPR)

01/10: Kenosha Unified students at eight schools are in virtual learning mode after their buildings hit a 3% COVID positivity threshold in recent days. (:60) (N)

01/11: As COVID-19 cases spike, many college students returning for spring semester have to quickly switch from in-person learning to online classes again. (3:34) (N/NPR)

01/11: The public school districts in Kenosha and Racine are struggling to keep schools open as COVID case numbers continue to rise. A total of 22 Kenosha Unified Schools are now in virtual learning mode because of COVID cases among students and staff. (2 separate stories) (4:30) (N)

01/12: Some infectious disease experts hope there may be something of a silver lining with the Omicron surge. It may leave a blanket of enhanced immunity that leaves the virus easier to live with. (4:50) (N/NPR)

01/13: Kenosha County Public Health is hitting the road again in a bid to increase the number of county residents who are vaccinated. A vaccination clinic will be held Sunday at New Brighter Day Baptist Church on 25th Ave. in Kenosha from two to three. Other clinics will be held in coming days at the Kenosha Senior Center and at Second Baptist Church. (:45) (N)

01/13: Racine Unified's Alternative Learning programs are moving online today because of a staff shortage. It's just the third RUSD school to close temporarily because of COVID. Most KUSD schools have temporarily switched to remote learning. No new schools were added to the list yesterday. (:30) (N)

01/13: The Supreme Court delivered 2 decisions on vaccine rules for US workers. One upholds a mandate for 10 million healthcare employees. The other blocks the rule meant for 84 million workers at companies. (3:45) (N/NPR)

01/19: A new government website offering free at-home COVID tests is now up and running. Each household can order 4 tests which will ship out later this month. 0(:30) (N/NPR)

01/21: More than a thousand health professionals are calling on Spotify to crack down on COVID-19 falsehoods that have been aired on the podcast of the company's most popular host: Joe Rogan. (4:24) (N/NPR)

01/21: Wisconsin's seven-day average of new COVID-19 infections reached its highest point in the pandemic Thursday, as officials said they do not yet see evidence that the latest wave has crested. (:45) (N/WPR)

01/31: As COVID cases drop, the hospitalization rate is still high as is the death rate in the U.S. Still, many infectious disease experts are cautiously optimistic. (6:30) (N/NPR)

02/01: The first COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 and younger could become available by the end of February, which is sooner than originally expected. (4:15) (N/NPR)

02/02: NPR's Leila Fadel asks Dr. Claire Boogaard of Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C., about the risks and benefits of vaccines for children under the age of five. (5:15) (N/NPR)

02/03: GOP lawmakers introduced bills that would shield doctors from potential discipline for certain pandemic advice and treatments. Authors say their proposals would ensure "medical freedom" but a major medical group says they undermine basic safeguards of care. (:50) (N/WPR)

02/04: State health officials are optimistic as new cases of COVID-19 drop in Wisconsin. Whether that continues at a rapid pace OR slows down may depend on a new subvariant of omicron. The state's chief medical officer Dr. Ryan Westergaard says the pandemic may have peaked for now but it's not over. (:45) (N)

02/07: By the end of February about 80% of the U.S. population will have had COVID-19. If you've been infected already, what's your chance of catching it again -- and are you protected from severe disease? (7:08) (N/NPR)

02/08: New Mexico is asking National Guard members to volunteer to be substitute teachers so the state can keep schools open during the omicron surge. (3:50) (N/NPR)

02/09: NPR's Leila Fadel talks to Annette Anderson of the Johns Hopkins Center for Safe and Healthy schools, about the implications as several states start rolling back mask mandates in schools. (5:00) (N/NPR)

02/10: Like most of the rest of the country, the numbers of new cases of COVID and new hospitalizations in Kenosha and Racine are trending down. The Kenosha County Public Health Clinical Services manager gave an update this week. (:90) (N)

02/10: More states run by Democratic governors have announced plans to ease masking policies, including in schools. But the federal government is still urging caution. (6:45) (N/NPR)

02/11: Several Democratic governors are relaxing pandemic restrictions. Some infectious disease experts approve. Some do. Individuals have to make their own decisions about how and when to mask. (4:00) (N/NPR)

02/14: The number of coronavirus cases nationally have dropped 75% from the highs of mid-January and more states are dropping indoor mask mandates. (7:02) (N/NPR)

02/16: NPR's Steve Inskeep talks to high school student Nicolas Montero, whose parents refused to allow him to get vaccinated against COVID-19. He used a Philadelphia law to get it without their consent. (5:34) (N/NPR)

02/17: With the omicron surge fading, the Biden administration is looking to the next phase of the pandemic. Americans appear eager to get there. (4:15) (N/NPR)

02/18: NPR's A Martinez talks to Dr. Ruth Kanthula of MedStar Health in Washington, D.C., about masking guidance for children -- those old enough to be vaccinated and those who are too young. (5:00) (N/NPR)

02/18: There will be a free COVID-19 mobile vaccination clinic at Second Baptist Church---3925 32nd Avenue---in Kenosha---this Sunday---from noon to 1 p.m (:45) (N)

02/21: As COVID cases and hospitalizations drop, the CDC is expected to change masking guidelines soon. Doctors are urging people to resume regular health screenings that they stopped during the pandemic. (7:28) (N/NPR)

02/22: NPR's Rachel Martin speaks with National Education Association President Becky Pringle about school staffing issues, and the burnout that has more teachers thinking about leaving their jobs. (4:47) (N/NPR)

02/23: In May---the last time the CDC released mask guidance---the messaging from the White House was a confusing mess. Public health experts say the White house needs to do a better job this time around. (3:49) (N/NPR)

02/25: Racine Mayor Cory Mason has signed an order that ends enforcement of the city's mask mandate. The requirement is expected to end altogether at the end of the month. (:45) (N)

02/28: The CDC's new guidance means most of the U.S. is considered to be at low or medium risk for COVID-19, and the agency has given the green light to take masks off. (6:43) (N/NPR)

03/07: The pandemic changed our daily habits. Early on people drink more, moved less and ate more. And many of these habits linger. Health experts say it's time to take stock of our daily habits. (6:33) (N/NPR)

03/10: With masks coming off in schools, day care centers and other places, many parents of young children are getting especially anxious to get their kids vaccinated. (4:00) (N/NPR)

03/14: The pandemic is entering a new phase. For many in Wisconsin, it has left lasting changes. (3:45) (N/WPR)

03/14: The seven-day average for new COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin is 392 as of Friday. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has confirmed 12,294 total deaths from the disease. (:45) (N)

03/15: Before March 2020, face masks were a rare sight outside of medical settings. In the two years since, they've become charged political symbols. Now, even as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has relaxed guidance on when to wear them, many people will continue to wear masks well into the future. (4:00) (N/WPR)

03/16: Edging into more flexibility: Wisconsin workers, employers rethink the future of the office after 2 years of pandemic disruptions. (4:00) (N/WPR)

03/16: Face masks are no longer required in Kenosha Unified school buildings. The board voted unanimously last night to end the mandate immediately. (:90) (N)

03/18: Two years after the pandemic began, NPR's Steve Inskeep talks to CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky about the latest omicron sub-variant, children's vaccines and the dropping of most mask mandates. (5:45) (N/NPR)

03/18: Moderna is asking the FDA to authorize a fourth shot of its COVID-19 vaccine. (2:00) (N/NPR)

03/22: A new coronavirus variant is a bit like Frankenstein, with the head of omicron and the body of delta. Scientists are eager to learn more about the origins of hybrid variants like "deltacron." (3:43) (N/NPR)

03/25: When COVID symptoms linger for weeks, but not long enough to become long COVID, it's confusing and scary for patients. Doctors say this is common. Should we start talking about medium COVID? (4:48) (N/NPR)

03/28: The seven-day average for new COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin is 315 as of Friday. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has confirmed 12,701 total deaths from the disease. (:45) (N)

03/28: In a surprising and controversial move, the Biden administration is planning to authorize second boosters for anyone ages 50 and older to bolster waning immunity as the threat of another surge looms. (2:30) (N/NPR)

03/29: With the FDA poised to OK another COVID booster for older people, questions remain: Is the evidence strong enough to warrant a fourth shot, does the timing make sense and will there be much demand? (4:00) (N/NPR)

03/30: Now that the FDA has authorized a fourth shot of the COVID-19 vaccine for some people, the question for those eligible becomes: Should I get one? Some experts say three shots are enough for now. (3:45) (N/NPR)

03/31: The White House is shifting gears on COVID. The last military surge unit is heading home, a new website is helping people find test-to-treat sites and the person who led the strategy is moving on. (3:47) (N/NPR)

ECONOMY: Rising Oil Prices

03/08: As the U.S. and western allies weigh restrictions on energy purchases from Russia, the U.S. is flirting with a record high price for a gallon of gas. That's due to a surge in crude oil costs. (4:15) (N/NPR)

03/08: Oil prices are WAY UP...And – HISTORICALLY– big oil shocks have often preceded economic recessions. A look into that connection. (2:00) (MMR)

03/10: Russia's war on Ukraine and the resulting oil price spike have forced the White House to consider all kinds of measures for fossil fuel that it once would have shunned. (3:49) (N/NPR)

03/17: Rising gas prices and the war in Ukraine are supercharging demand for new mining to support electrifying the country's transportation grid, but some of it lies on land considered sacred to Native Americans. (4:06) (N/NPR)

03/18: The Biden administration is encouraging U.S. oil companies to increase their production to help curb record high gasoline prices. But boosting output is easier said than done. (3:43) (N/NPR)



Public Health: The Opioid Crisis in Wisconsin and USA

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

Racial Issues: The Jacob Blake Police-Involved Shooting:

Health Care: Obamacare Rollout: Follow-Up and Aftermath

