

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:

04/13:Police in Grand Rapids have released videos of an April 4th incident when an unnamed officer shot a Black man in the back of his head following an apparent struggle for the officer's Taser. (3:30) (N/NPR)

04/19: Federal authorities in Chicago say Jason Van Dyke will not face federal charges. The former police officer, who is white, was convicted in the 2014 murder of a Black teenager. (1:57) (N/NPR)

04/20: The Justice Department says it is working to curb racial biases in how it determines who is released from federal prison early, but a lot of work still must be done. (2:03) (N/NPR)

05/10: Jacob Blake has dropped his federal civil rights lawsuit against the Kenosha policeman who shot him while responding to a DV call. (:90) (N)

05/11: Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian has confirmed there was NO settlement or cash payment in the dismissal of the Jacob Blake's Federal lawsuit against a Kenosha cop. (:60) (N)

05/25: On the second anniversary of George Floyd's death, Black people continue to be targets of hate. America's race issues are once again at the forefront after the mass shooting in Buffalo, New York. (4:19) (N/NPR)

05/25: Since George Floyd's murder, what's changed for Black residents of Minneapolis? NPR's Steve Inskeep talks to Jeffrey Hayden, an ex-state senator who represented the district where Floyd was killed. (7:15) (N/NPR)

05/26: President Biden signed an executive order on policing two years after George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer. (2:02) (N/NPR)

06/09: A week after his funeral was disrupted by gunfire, supporters of Da'Shontay King will be out in public later today. A rally and march is expected to take place in the downtown area around noon today. Family members and others will be demanding the release of body cam footage of King's death. King was shot by a police officer May 20th as he was fleeing and holding a gun.(:90) (N)

Public Health: The Spread of the Coronavirus & Vaccine News

04/01: Doctors at the Mayo Clinic say a strain of the virus that causes COVID19 probably won't result in as big a wave of cases as the original omicron variant---but---they say we still need to be alert. (:45) (N/WPR)

04/04: FDA advisers meet Wednesday on the future of COVID vaccines. A fall booster push may be in works. And data is expected this month on vaccine efficacy in kids younger than five. (6:30) (N/NPR)

04/05: Senators have reached a deal on \$10 billion for additional COVID aid. It's far less than what the Biden administration wanted, but it's what lawmakers could agree to. (3:46) (N/NPR)

04/06: The CDC wants more local governments to test their sewage for coronavirus, as a way to spot new surges. Colorado is at the forefront, but other states aren't doing it at all. (3:49)

(N/NPR)

04/07: New cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. are at their lowest levels since July of last year. The CDC has relaxed masking and other prevention recommendations. But recent polling from the Kaiser Family Foundation finds that a lot of people still say that they're at risk from COVID.

And that affects how the consumer economy is recovering. (2:30) (MMR)

04/12: Philadelphia has become the first major U.S. city to reinstate its mask mandate for schools, businesses, government buildings and restaurants in response to a new wave of COVID cases. (1:09) (N/NPR)

04/13: The CDC will continue requiring people to wear masks while using public transit. That mandate had been set to expire next week, but it will now be kept in place until May. (3:20)

(N/NPR)

04/19: A federal judge in Florida has struck down the Biden administration's mask mandate on planes, trains, buses and other public transportation -- saying the CDC exceeded its statutory authority. (3:47) (N/NPR)

04/20: We ask commuters and travelers to react to new masking guidance. NPR's Leila Fadel asks Lindsay Wiley, a professor of public health law at UCLA, about the CDC's authority in response to COVID. (7:00) (N/NPR)

04/21: NPR's Steve Inskeep talks to ex-CDC Director Tom Frieden about disputed mask mandates for public transportation, and the government's legal authority to implement public health regulations. (5:45) (N/NPR)

04/21: Now that the federal mask mandate on public transport has come to an end, should people continue to wear masks anyway? (3:31) (N/NPR)

04/22: The pandemic spurred many states to temporarily relax rules for selling alcohol to give restaurants and bars short-term financial relief. In some places, those changes are becoming permanent. (3:34) (N/NPR)

04/22: Although Milwaukee Public Schools reinstated its mandatory mask policy this week, Kenosha Public Health Department Director Jen Freiheit doesn't expect to be issuing such a recommendation to *Kenosha County* schools anytime soon. Freiheit, though, encourages anyone who thinks they need to wear a mask to do so. (2 separate stories) (3:00) (N)

04/25: NPR's Leila Fadel speaks with Dr. Ashish Jha , head of the Biden administration's coronavirus response team, about White House plans and the outlook for COVID in the coming months. (7:00) (N/NPR)

04/26: The White House is making a new push to make more people aware of COVID treatments like Paxlovid because stockpiles of the life-saving antiviral have been sitting on shelves, unused. (3:45) (N/NPR)

04/27: Pfizer has asked for authorization for the first booster for children 5 to 11 and Moderna is poised to ask for authorization for the first vaccine for children younger than 5. (3:45) (N/NPR)

04/27: As COVID-19 cases continue to rise again in Wisconsin, state health officials say there's reason for optimism. (:50) (N/WPR)

04/28: For two years, the National Women's History Museum in Alexandria, Virginia, has been collecting journals by women writing about their pandemic experiences. (2:11) (N/NPR)

04/29: NPR's Steve Inskeep talks to Ed Yong, a staff writer for The Atlantic who won a Pulitzer for his pandemic coverage, about the failed public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (6:30) (N/NPR)

05/02: NIH scientists are looking for people to take part in a study on long-COVID. They want to find out why some people with lingering symptoms get better, and others end up with chronic health problems. (7:29) (N/NPR)

05/09: The COVID-19 pandemic is having a surprising silver lining -- it's breathing new life into the fight against HIV by accelerating the development of a new type of vaccine. (6:36) (N/NPR)

05/12: North Korea has confirmed its first COVID outbreak, which could have serious consequences because the country has a poor health care system and its population is believed to be mostly unvaccinated. (3:30) (N/NPR)

05/13: Two years and nearly 1 million deaths into the pandemic, the brunt continues to be disproportionately borne by society's most vulnerable: low-income communities of color. (8:46) (N/NPR)

05/13: New cases of COVID-19 are on the upswing in Wisconsin---but---not nearly at the rate seen last winter. (:45) (N)

05/17: NPR's Rachel Martin speaks with philosopher Eric Boynton about empathy and community grief as the U.S. counts nearly 1 million deaths from COVID-19. (7:19) (N/NPR)

05/20: An even more contagious Omicron subvariant is causing another surge of infections in the U.S. It's fueling fears that the number of people dying from Covid-19 will start to rise again too. (3:00) (N/NPR)

06/03: The White House says babies, toddlers and other very young children could finally start getting vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as June 21. (2:32) (N/NPR)

06/07: COVID transmission levels in Kenosha and Racine counties have been downgraded from 'high' to 'medium,' according to a Centers for Disease Control rating system. The two counties had moved back into the high category three weeks ago, prompting an advisory for people to wear masks in indoor public places. (:30) (N)

06/08: Some Republican Senators are pointing to the Democrats' passing of COVID relief bills as one cause of the economy's current inflation (7:09) (N/NPR)

06/09: The White House is announcing its plan to roll out COVID vaccines for children under 5. If the FDA and CDC give the go ahead next week, the administration says it has 10 million doses ready to go. (3:30) (N/NPR)

06/14: Food and Drug Administration advisers are opening a two-day meeting to review Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccines for children, including the first vaccines for kids younger than age 5. (3:53) (N/NPR)

06/17: The omicron variant appears to be much less likely than delta to cause long-COVID. That's according to the first large study published about the persistent health risks posed by omicron. (4:30) (N/NPR)

06/20: Providers---across the country--- can start vaccinating kids ages 6 months to 5 years as early as this week after regulators cleared the final authorization steps on Saturday. An independent panel of advisers to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention voted on Saturday to recommend vaccinating all children in the age group with one of two separate COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by Moderna and Pfizer. (:90) (N)

06/22: Over the last several days, parents and guardians of children under 5 years old have expressed confusion and frustration over access to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. (:45) (N/WPR)

Public Health: Will SCOTUS Court Overturn Roe v Wade?

05/03: Politico reports that a leaked draft opinion suggests the Supreme Court will overturn Roe v. Wade. (7:09) (N/NPR)

05/03: Democrats running for office in Wisconsin are urging Congress to act quickly to protect abortion rights in the wake of news that the U.S. Supreme Court could be poised to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Such a move would make nearly all abortions illegal in Wisconsin. Meanwhile, Republicans and abortion opponents were joyful at the possibility that the nearly 50-year-old ruling legalizing abortions could be overturned. Abortion rights are expected to be a major dividing line issue in the races for governor and U.S. Senate in Wisconsin. (:60) (N)

05/04: The Supreme Court draft opinion that would overrule Roe v. Wade sparked outrage among abortion rights supporters, but a mix of celebration and caution among opponents crosswise with public opinion. (3:51) (N/NPR)

05/04: Abortion has catapulted to the front of Wisconsin's midterm races for governor and U.S. Senate in the wake of news that the U.S. Supreme Court could be poised to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. (:45) (N)

05/04: Around 1,000 demonstrators rallied for abortion rights in downtown Madison as part of a wave of protests across the country. (:45) (N)

05/05: NPR's A Martinez speaks with NYU Professor of Law Melissa Murray about some state lawmakers' efforts to keep patients from seeking abortion care across state lines. (6:00) (N/NPR)

05/05: Democrats are warning that the draft opinion from Justice Samuel Alito that would strike down Roe v. Wade could threaten other rights rooted in privacy -- including marriage and contraception. (4:00) (N/NPR)

05/06: As more states impose tougher abortion restrictions, NPR's Leila Fadel talks to Democratic Gov. Jared Polis of Colorado -- a state that seeks to be a refuge for people seeking reproductive care. (6:05) (N/NPR)

05/06: If the Supreme Court over turns Roe versus Wade, more than two dozen states are expected to ban or seriously restrict abortion access. Why poor women and women of color are likely to be disproportionately affected. (4:30) (N/NPR)

05/09: Vandals struck an anti-abortion group office, where a fire broke out and a Molotov cocktail was found. Police say a spray-painted a message also was found. It wasn't immediately clear who vandalized the building, but the message "If abortions aren't safe then you aren't either" was spray-painted on the building. (:60) (N)

05/09: Illinois is surrounded by states that plan on limiting or banning access to abortions. It's bracing for people who plan to cross state lines if proposed crackdown legislation become law. (5:21) (/NPR)

05/10: Police are asking for the public's help in tracking down those who fire-bombed and vandalized the office of a prominent Wisconsin pro-life lobbying group's office. (:45) (N/NPR)

05/10: Republicans aim to make the conversation about abortion a challenge for Democrats by accusing them of having extreme positions -- even though the public largely supports keeping Roe v. Wade in place. (4:30) (N/NPR)

05/11: The Senate will vote on a bill codifying Roe V. Wade into law -- a symbolic move by Democrats to show support for abortion rights after a leaked draft showed the Supreme Court may overturn the ruling. (3:30) (N/NPR)

05/12: A leaked draft of a Supreme Court opinion suggests the court may soon overturn Roe Vs. Wade. An attempt by Congress to preserve the right to abortions failed for lack of votes. Now many are looking to the White House to see what, if anything, it can do. (4:15) (N/NPR)

05/20: About 100 Horlick High School students walked out of the school yesterday to show support for abortion rights. And---according to the Racine Journal Times---walkouts and demonstrations---of various sizes---also took place at Case High School in Racine as well as Bradford, Tremper, Indian Trail---and---Harborside Academy in Kenosha. The demonstrations were organized by students on social media. (:30) (N)

05/24: Medication accounts for more than half of abortions, fueled in part by a greater reliance on telehealth. How would a Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade affect abortion pills availability? (7:01) (N/NPR)

05/26: Research shows that economics plays a significant role in the abortion debate. Many women seek an abortion to keep from falling deeper into poverty. (3:46) (N/NPR)

06/07: Abortion rights opponents are both excited and sobered at the prospect that the Supreme Court could overturn Roe v. Wade, saying they are ready to wage the next battles in both blue and red states. (3:48)

06/08: The leak of the draft opinion overturning Roe v. Wade has exposed deep divisions at the U.S. Supreme Court. (6:18) (N/NPR)

06/27: For those living in states with restrictive abortion laws, crossing state lines is one of few ways to access the procedure. But some abortion rights opponents are trying to prevent that. (4:30) (N/NPR)

06/27: Following the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, George Mason University law professor Helen Alvare speaks with NPR's Morning Edition about the anti-abortion rights movement's next steps. (5:00) (N/NPR)

06/27: Gov. Tony Evers says he will offer clemency to doctors prosecuted for performing abortions in Wisconsin. The statement came during the Wisconsin Democratic Party convention. (N/WPR) (:50)

06/28: Michigan may soon reinstate its long-dormant ban on abortion. But, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has vowed to "fight like hell" to keep abortion legal in her state. (5:30) (N/NPR)

06/28: Anti-abortion groups---here in Wisconsin---say they will work with lawmakers next year to update or replace the state's 1849 abortion ban. (:30) (N)

06/29: Wisconsin's neighboring states are preparing for an influx of women seeking abortions which are illegal in our state. (:45) (N)

06/29: Wisconsin AG Josh Kaul is suing to block Wisconsin's ban on abortions. (:45) (N/WPR)

06/29: Vice President Harris responds to Roe v. Wade being overturned by the Supreme Court. She says abortion-rights supporters need to channel their disappointment into political action ahead of midterms. (4:12) (N/NPR)

06/30: Adolescents seeking abortions in the U.S. have faced a thicket of legal hurdles and logistical challenges. The Supreme Court decision striking down Roe v. Wade has made it even tougher. (3:12) (N/NPR)

06/30: Some of Wisconsin's anti-abortion groups want to tighten the state's pre-Civil War ban on abortions by removing or rewording the exception that allows doctors to perform the procedure to save the life of the mother. (:45) (N/WPR)

ECONOMY: Rising Oil Prices

04/07: Steve Inskeep talks to Democratic Representative Lori Trahan about accusations that oil companies are price gouging and profiting from the war in Ukraine. (5:45) (N/NPR)

04/12: Rising gas prices are a frustration for almost everyone, but they pose a serious hardship for some lower-income Americans. (6:30) (N/NPR)

05/20: Restaurants are struggling with inflation as costs of food, labor, rent and gas rise. NPR reports on small establishments which can't absorb the increases or pass them on to customers. (4:30) (N/NPR)

05/23: The surging price of diesel fuel is making everything even more expensive, and that's posing a major threat to the economy. (3:45) (N/NPR)

06/02: Prices are rising all over the world. In the United States, prices have risen faster than most economists predicted, including those who work for the Federal Reserve. NPR's Rachel Martin speaks with Donald Kohn, former Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors, about what the White House and the Fed can do. (5:30) (N/NPR)

6/17: High gas prices are hitting emergency service providers hard. First responders say they are adopting cost-cutting measures as pump prices eat into their budgets. (1:43) (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

