



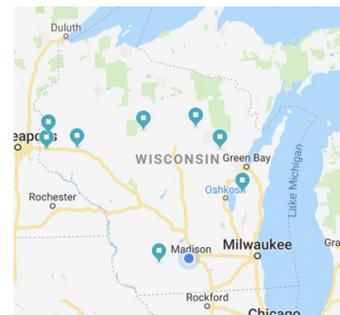
## Top Stories

### Eight Wisconsin Hospitals Nationally Recognized

Eight Wisconsin hospitals rank on a **new national Top 100 list** that recognizes performance among small, rural hospitals across the nation. The rankings are determined by rural-relevant indicators of excellence, and are the foundation for several rural recognition programs and legislative initiatives.

The recognized hospitals are:

- Ascension Calumet Hospital,
- Aspirus Langlade Hospital,
- Aspirus Medford Hospital and Clinics,
- Mayo Clinic Health System in Red Cedar,
- River Falls Area Hospital,
- Thedacare Medical Center-Shawano,
- Upland Hills Health, and
- Westfields Hospital and Clinic.



Hospitals across the state made the list.  
Source: Google Maps.

[Read more](#)

### Report: Challenges Facing Rural Communities

A report from the American Hospital Association, a lobbying group, thoroughly outlines a number of challenges that rural communities face in the process of getting high-quality, affordable access to healthcare. The report also outlines suggestions for relief from regulatory and reporting requirements, and identifies new models of care and reimbursement for rural providers. Read the **full report**, the **executive summary**, or the **infographic**.



Image: American Hospital Association

[Read more](#)

### More Wisconsin Kids Are Skipping Vaccines

Official data show that a growing number of families in the state are choosing to opt their children out of the vaccinations

required to attend school, writes the Appleton Post Crescent. Families can avoid the vaccinations for non-medical reasons by signing a form and citing a religious belief or "personal conviction" against immunity requirements-but such trends can also pose a threat to herd immunity and to those who are medically unable to receive vaccinations.



Image: Pettycon on Unsplash

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## More News

- Wisconsin Republican legislative leaders are advocating for tolls to help fund state road repairs, [reports the Associated Press](#).
- Companies are starting to sell "risk scores" to doctors, insurers, and hospitals to identify patients at risk of opioid addiction or overdose, [reports Politico](#).
- Healthcare figured into President Trump's [State of the Union](#) on Tuesday, and Kaiser Health News explores some of the [President's healthcare priorities](#).
- Purdue Pharma, the maker of potent painkiller OxyContin, [explored expanding into the anti-addiction market](#) as early as 2014, according to court documents.

## Funding & Opportunities

- [Action grants](#) (to these [specific communities](#)) for education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, assistance to disadvantaged people, and more. (Deadline: Feb. 28th)
- [Funding](#) to engage with rural stakeholders on national rural health policy issues and to facilitate and maintain rural collaborative projects. (Deadline: Feb. 28th)
- [Community enhancement grants](#) to enrich life in Marathon County. (Deadline: March 4th)
- [Funding](#) from the Wisconsin DATCP to help farms and business produce, process, market and distribute food in [local markets](#). (Deadline: March 20th)
- Nominate your fire/EMS Department to win [equipment and training](#) on grain safety and rescue. (Deadline: April 30th)

## Events

- Feb 8th: [Building and Maintaining Relationships in Stressful Times for Farmers](#)
- Feb 11th: [Buprenorphine 101](#) (for WHA hospitals and corporate members)

- Feb 12th: Promising Practices for Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Feb 13th: Gathering to Address Farmer Stress and Suicide Awareness in Loganville



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Wisconsin Office of Rural Health