

DAILY COVID-19 MEDIA UPDATE: March 24, 2020

Today Governor Walz held a press call with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to provide updates on COVID-19 and remind Minnesotans of some of the benefits and programs Minnesota is offering amid the pandemic:

MNsure

Last week, Governor Walz and MNsure announced a 30-day special enrollment period (SEP) for qualified individuals who are currently without insurance as a result of the growth of COVID-19 cases. The SEP opened on March 23 and runs through April 21. It will allow uninsured individuals 30 days to enroll in health insurance coverage through MNsure.org.

Unemployment Insurance

We know the hardships and stress this pandemic is bringing to individuals and families across the state. The Governor highlighted the state's unemployment insurance program and described how it is quickly serving employees who are unable to work as a result of COVID-19.

Individual Tax Filing Extension

Minnesotans filing their annual Minnesota Individual Income Tax return for tax year 2019 now have until Wednesday, July 15, 2020, to file and make their payments without any penalties or interest.

Small Business Assistance

Yesterday, the Governor and the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) announced a Small Business Emergency Loan Program for businesses affected by COVID-19. DEED's emergency loan program will help Minnesota small business owners who need immediate assistance during COVID-19 closures.

Suspension of Evictions

The Governor also announced an executive order yesterday, which clarifies that landlords and financial institutions cannot begin eviction proceedings that would remove tenants from stable housing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previous Actions by Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan

March 23: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-17](#) clarifying application of Executive Order 20-09 to veterinary surgeries and procedures

March 23: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-16](#) directing non-hospital entities to inventory and preserve vital medical equipment during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency

March 23: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-15](#) providing immediate relief to small businesses during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency

March 23: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-14](#) suspending evictions and writs of recovery during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency

March 21: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-13](#) authorizing National Guard assistance to COVID-19 Response, beginning with transportation and logistics in stockpiling personal protective equipment for health care workers.

March 20: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-12](#) preserving access to human services programs.

March 20: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-11](#) securing Federal authority to continue human services programs.

March 20: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-10](#) combatting price gouging.

March 19: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-09](#) to delay elective surgeries and procedures in order to conserve health care resources and reduce contact between patients and providers.

March 18: Governor Walz took action to support businesses affected by COVID-19 by announcing a 30-day Sales and Use Tax grace period for businesses identified in [Executive Order 20-04](#).

March 18: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-08](#) clarifying the types of businesses and places of public accommodation subject to closure per Executive Order 20-04. The

executive order clarifies that the closure order applies to salons, barbershops, and other similar establishments.

March 17: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-07](#) providing paid leave for state employees who are not able to work for reasons related to COVID-19 and suspended the waiting period for insurance coverage for new employees.

March 17: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-06](#) to exempt vehicles and drivers providing direct assistance for emergency relief efforts in response to COVID-19 from certain regulations including provisions on weight and hours of service.

March 17: Governor Walz signed [Ch. 70 S.F. 4334](#) into law, allocating \$200 million toward an emergency and long-term grant program to respond to the needs of health care and long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 16: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-05](#) to strengthen Minnesota's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and ensure that workers who are not able to work as a result of COVID-19 have benefits available. Specifically, this Executive Order waives the employer surcharge and allows the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to pay unemployment benefits immediately, providing fast relief to employees who need it.

March 16: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-04](#) to order the temporary closure of Minnesota restaurants and bars to dine-in customers. He also ordered the temporary closure of other places of public accommodation and amusement, including theaters, museums, fitness centers, and community clubs.

March 16: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-03](#) to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Minnesota's Veterans Homes. This executive order allows Veterans Homes to protect residents and staff by temporarily restricting visitors, reducing the risk of COVID-19 spread among residents.

March 15: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-02](#) authorizing the temporary closure of Minnesota K-12 public schools to students in order for school administrators and teachers to make long-term plans for the continuity of education and essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 13: Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-01](#) declaring a peacetime emergency in Minnesota and unveiled legislative proposals to prepare for the COVID-19 pandemic.

