

DAILY COVID-19 MEDIA UPDATE: March 25, 2020

Today Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan continued their strong and steady leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and announced a Stay At Home Executive Order directing Minnesotans to limit movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs from Friday, March 27 at 11:59pm to Friday, April 10 at 5:00pm. By limiting social interactions, we decrease the transmission of COVID-19 and help ensure our health care sector can prepare for increased demands.

“We must take bold action to save the lives of Minnesotans,” said Governor Walz. **“Having served as a Command Sergeant Major in the Army National Guard, I know the importance of having a plan. While the virus will still be here when this order ends, this action will slow the spread of COVID-19 and give Minnesota time to ready for battle.”**

Modeling released today by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and University of Minnesota predicts that more than 70,000 Minnesotans could die from COVID-19 if we take no action. The Governor’s two-week order to stay home is forecasted to significantly slow the spread of COVID-19 and allow the state time to better prepare for the pandemic. These preparations include building hospital capacity, increasing access to life-saving equipment like ventilators, increasing testing, planning for how to care for vulnerable populations, and assessing public health data to determine which community mitigation strategies are most effective.

“We will work with our world-renowned health care sector, cutting-edge manufacturers, innovative business community, and strong-spirited Minnesotans across the state to tackle this virus head on,” Governor Walz continued. **“These are trying times. But we are Minnesotans. We see challenges—and we tackle them. No matter how daunting the challenge; no matter how dark the times; Minnesota has always risen up—by coming together. If we unite as One Minnesota, we will save lives.”**

Additional Executive Orders

The Governor also announced executive orders extending the closure of bars, restaurants, and other public accommodations until May 1, 2020 at 5:00pm and authorizing the Commissioner of Education to implement a Distance Learning Period for Minnesota’s students beginning on March 30 through May 4, 2020.

Governor Launches PSA Campaign

Governor Walz announced a Stay Home MN public service announcement (PSA) campaign. In the PSAs, the Governor tells Minnesotans to help flatten the curve of infection by staying home, describes the efforts the state is taking to protect Minnesotans, and directs them to the Department of Health website for more information.

You can watch the PSAs below.

- [Stay Home MN :60](#)
- [Stay Home MN :30](#)
- [Stay Home MN :15](#)
- [Facts Not Fear :30](#)

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.