



Summaries of COVID-19 Related Executive Orders

In response to COVID-19, Governor Walz has issued a number of Executive Orders. Below you will find a summary of all COVID-19 related orders.

- **Executive Order 20-01:** Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota's Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19.
 - Declares a peacetime emergency in the state and orders MDH to coordinate operations with the state's emergency management center. Requires state agencies to work to respond to the emergency, readies the national guard for response, requires work with the CDC and asks Minnesotans to follow disease prevention protocols.
- **Executive Order 20-02:** Authorizing and Directing the Commissioner of Education to Temporarily Close Schools to Plan for a Safe Educational Environment
 - Orders the closure of schools beginning Wednesday, March 18 through Friday, March 27. This action is intended to allow schools, staff, administrators and teachers to plan for continuity of education and services, distance learning, and social distancing as the COVID-19 outbreak continues. Schools are also to provide care for children under age 12 if their parents work in essential fields. See a list of the essential fields [here](#). They should also provide meals to their students; plan on how mental health services and other critical services can be continued; and, continue paying hourly workers and work to incorporate them in their distance learning plans.
- **Executive Order 20-03:** Protecting Residents of Minnesota Veterans Homes during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Aims to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Minnesota's Veterans Homes by authorizing a new temporary visitor policy, allows denial of admission unless screened, and allows preventing staff from working if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.
- **Executive Order 20-04:** Providing for Temporary Closure of Bars, Restaurants, and Other Places of Public Accommodation
 - Orders the closing of bars, restaurants, theaters, gyms, etc. This order went in place March 17th at 5:00 pm and ends on March 27th at 5:00 pm. The Governor also indicated that an extension of this order was also possible.
- **Executive Order 20-05:** Providing Immediate Relief to Employers and Unemployed Workers During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Expands unemployment insurance eligibility for workers impacted by COVID-19. The executive order makes applicants eligible for unemployment benefits for several reasons including if their presence in the workplace could jeopardize the health of others, if they're under a

quarantine order, or if an employee cannot come to work due to an outbreak of communicable disease. It also eliminates the “waiting week” for access to benefits, allows workers to look for work if it does not pose a risk to their health or health of others, and waives the normal 5-week benefit limitation for business owners. If someone’s employment has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, encourage them to apply [online](#) and Minnesota’s Unemployment Insurance Program will determine eligibility.

- **Executive Order 20-06:** Providing for Emergency Relief from Regulations to Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota
 - Exempts vehicles and drivers providing direct assistance for emergency relief efforts in response to COVID-19 from some regulations including provisions on weight and hours of service.
- **Executive Order 20-07:** Providing for State Workforce Needs During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Provides paid leave for state employees who are not able to work for reasons related to COVID-19 and suspends the waiting period for insurance coverage for new employees. The Commissioner of Management and Budget was also given more authority to respond to COVID-19.
- **Executive Order 20-08:** Clarifying Public Accommodations Subject to Executive Order 20-04
 - Amends Executive Order 20-04 to further clarify the list of closed businesses.
- **Executive Order 20-09:** Directing Delay of Inpatient and Outpatient Elective Surgery and Procedural Cases during COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Directs health care providers to delay inpatient and outpatient elective surgery. Defines elective procedures as those that can be delayed without risk to the current or future health of a patient.
- **Executive Order 20-10:** Combatting Price Gouging During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Prohibits price gouging on essential consumer goods during the peacetime emergency. Essential consumer goods include anything necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- **Executive Order 20-11:** Securing Federal Authority to Continue Human Services Programs During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Gives the Commissioner of the DHS the authority to seek federal authority to waive or modify requirements for programs including Minnesota Family Investment Program, Medical Assistance, and MinnesotaCare.
- **Executive Order 20-12:** Preserving Access to Human Services Programs During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Allows the DHS to issue waivers or modifications to state requirements to make sure that DHS services can continue without delay during the peacetime emergency.
- **Executive Order 20-13:** Authorizing National Guard Assistance to COVID-19 Response

- This will increase the PPE stockpile (delivering all supplies from Camp Ripley), and mobilizes the people, equipment, and facilities to provide assistance to Minnesota in responding to COVID-19.
- **Executive Order 20-14:** Suspending Evictions and Writs of Recovery During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - This ensures people can stay at home to maintain the safety of themselves and the public during the pandemic. This does not provide relief on rent. Landlords are also not allowed to terminate leases during this time. This also applies to foreclosures when someone cannot pay their mortgage because of loss of income due to COVID-19 or due to medical expenses from COVID-19. Financial institutions are also strongly urged not to impose late fees.
- **Executive Order 20-15:** Providing Immediate Relief to Small Businesses During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Directs the Department of Employment and Economic Development to develop a forgivable loan program for small businesses (Small Business Emergency Loan Program) regardless of their organizational form and provides grants to nonprofit organizations. Businesses must demonstrate that they were directly and adversely affected by the COVID-19 peacetime emergency and Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-08.
- **Executive Order 20-16:** Directing Non-Hospital Entities to Inventory and Preserve Vital Medical Equipment During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Any business, nonprofit, or non-hospital health care facility, (veterinary, dental, construction, research, institution of higher learning, etc.) in possession of PPE, ventilators, respirators, or anesthesia machines that are not required for critical healthcare must do an inventory of their stock and submit it via a form. They also must not use this equipment unless needed for critical care services.
- **Executive Order 20-17:** Clarifying Application of Executive Order 20-09 to Veterinary Surgeries and Procedures
 - Amending the earlier Executive Order on elective procedures to include veterinary procedures (must be postponed indefinitely). This also included the specification that, in the context of veterinary medicine, threats to public health, threats to the health or safety of the animal's owner (e.g., in the case of service animals), and threats to the health or safety of the animal may also be considered as exceptions.
- **Executive Order 20-18:** Continuing the Closure of Bars, Restaurants, and Other Places of Public Accommodation
 - The closure of bars, restaurants, etc. from Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-08 is extended until May 1, 2020 at 5:00 pm. It also clarifies that public places that are serving essential functions for COVID-19 response may stay open.
- **Executive Order 20-19:** Authorizing and Directing the Commissioner of Education to Implement a Distance Learning Period and Continue to Provide a Safe Learning Environment for Minnesota's Students
 - The closure period for schools extended through March 27th. This directs the Commissioner of Education to implement a distance learning period

for March 30th through May 4th, 2020. School buildings must remain closed for instruction.

- **Executive Order 20-20: Directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home**
 - All Minnesotans are directed to stay at home from Friday, March 27, 2020 at 11:59 pm through Friday, April 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm, unless they are participating in exempt activities:
 - Relocation to ensure safety
 - Health and safety activities
 - Outdoor activities
 - Necessary supplies and services
 - Essential intrastate and interstate travel
 - Care of others
 - Displacement
 - Workers who provide critical services are permitted to go to work, including health care workers, public health workers, and first responders.
- **Executive Order 20-21: Clarifying Application of Executive Order 20-07 to Allow for Coverage of Employees of Constitutional Officers**
 - This is amending Executive Order 20-07 regarding providing leave for executive branch employees. It clarifies language for constitutional officers.
- **Executive Order 20-22: Authorizing the State Auditor to Temporarily Suspend Reporting Requirements During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency**
 - This allows the State Auditor to suspend, extend, or modify deadlines or reporting requirements for local government entities.
- **Executive Order 20-23: Authorizing Minnesota Health-Related Licensing Boards to Modify Requirements During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency**
 - For health-related workers: Defers continuing education requirements until after the peacetime emergency, extends expiration date of certificates and registration, extends temporary nursing permits, removes requirement for fingerprints with a background check, and puts dispensing limits on hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine.
- **Executive Order 20-24: Providing for Emergency Relief from Regulations to Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota**
 - This relates to transporting livestock; waiving requirements so that it doesn't result in a meat shortage. Waivers include weight limits and time limits, in some cases.
- **Executive Order 20-25: Authorizing Peace Officers, Firefighters, and Security-Related Licensing Boards to Modify Requirements During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency**
 - Defers continuing education requirements for peace officers and extends licenses for firefighters and private security entities.
- **Executive Order 20-26: Ensuring Continuing Operations of the Medical Cannabis Program during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency**
 - Extends the enrollment period in the medical cannabis program, allows tele-visits with providers, establishes an emergency caregiver if needed, and allows for curbside pick-up of medical cannabis.

- **Executive Order 20-27:** Providing for Emergency Relief from Regulations to Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota
 - Vehicles and drivers transporting livestock feed and fertilizer used for spring crop planting are providing direct assistance for emergency relief efforts in response to COVID-19 and are exempted from certain rules and regulations.
- **Executive Order 20-28:** Allowing Out-of-State Mental Health Providers to Render Telehealth Aid and Permitting Certain Licensing Boards to Provide License and Registration Relief During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Allows mental health care providers from out of state to provide telemedicine services to Minnesota residents. Also, allows the boards of dentistry, cosmetology and barber examiners to waive late fees for license renewals.
- **Executive Order 20-29:** Amending Executive Order 20-05 to Expedite State Unemployment Insurance Benefits During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Streamlines administrative requirements so 45,000 qualified workers with pending unemployment insurance applications can immediately access benefits.
- **Executive Order 20-30:** Providing National Guard Assistance for Spring Flood Response and Protection
 - In response to flooding in Marshall County, the Minnesota National Guard was mobilized to aid and allows costs to be covered with General Fund dollars.
- **Executive Order 20-31:** Providing for Relief from Regulations to Certain Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota
 - Exempts vehicles used to pump or transport sewage from the seasonal load restrictions on local and state roads.
- **Executive Order 20-32:** Ensuring that Healthcare Providers Can Respond Quickly and Safely During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Allows the Commissioner of Health to temporarily delay, waive, or modify any of the following provisions and applicable rules:
 - Provisions regulating the hospital moratorium and nursing home moratorium;
 - Provisions that govern health care-based use of x-ray and related technologies;
 - Provisions that MDH is responsible for in various statutes including 144 and 144A; and,
 - Provisions related to administrative appeals, reconsiderations, or other reviews involving or initiated by the department.
 - Permits the Commissioner to temporarily delay, waive, or modify the scope, timelines, reporting requirements, and activities of state funded grants to allow recipient organizations to use such funds to respond to COVID-19.
 - Allows the Commissioner to establish and regulate temporary alternate healthcare facilities.
 - Gives the Commissioner the ability to grant or deny temporary variance requests.

- **Executive Order 20-33:** Extending Stay at Home Order and Temporary Closure of Bars, Restaurants, and Other Places of Public Accommodation
 - Extends Minnesota's Stay at Home Order through 11:59 p.m. on May 3. Permits people to leave their home for the following reasons: relocation for safety, health and safety activities, outdoor activities, obtaining necessary supplies and services, essential travel, care of others, displacement, moving or relocation, voting, and funerals. Exempts activities by tribal members within tribal lands and workers in critical sectors. Allows for fines for willful disobedience of the order. Directs agencies to plan for allowing non-critical sectors to return to business safely and with social distancing.
 - Extends the closure of bars, restaurants and other places of public accommodation to May 3 at 11:59 p.m.
- **Executive Order 20-34:** Protecting Minnesota's First Responders by Directing the Commissioner of Health to Share Information with the Department of Public Safety, 911 Dispatchers, and First Responders
 - This permits the release of limited health data (e.g. address) from the Commissioner of Health to the Department of Public Safety to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19, specifically for first responders.
- **Executive Order 20-35:** Extending the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency Declared in Executive Order 20-01
 - This extends the peacetime emergency to May 13, 2020, unless it is rescinded by proper authority, or until it is terminated by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature, whichever is earlier. It allows this peacetime emergency to be further extended.
- **Executive Order 20-36:** Directing Salary Reductions for Certain Officials
 - Reduces the salaries of the Governor, Chief of Staff, and Cabinet Members by 10% between April 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020.
- **Executive Order 20-37:** Extending the Relief from Regulations for Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota Declared in Executive Order 20-06
 - Temporarily suspends weight-related regulatory provisions to allow vehicles to transport supplies. Also prohibits carriers from allowing sick or fatigued individuals to operate commercial vehicles.
- **Executive Order 20-38:** Allowing for Safe Outdoor Recreation
 - Allows some recreation facilities to re-open including golf courses, bait shops, marinas, etc. under social distancing protocols. Other outdoor recreational activities that were previously discouraged can also resume as of 5am Saturday. The order will specify that there must be at least 6 feet of separation between participants in different households but continues to prohibit other activities that do not allow for social distancing including marathons, fishing contests, spectator events, fairs, etc. Indoor facilities associated with outdoor recreation areas must remain closed with a few exceptions.
 - Continues to require those Minnesotans who can work from home, to do so.
- **Executive Order 20-39:** Providing Administrative Flexibility to the Department of Human Rights

- To reduce the administrative burden on the Department of Human Rights, this order extends deadlines for a verified charge of discrimination as stated in statute. It also modifies filing requirements.
- **Executive Order 20-40:** Allowing Workers in Certain Non-Critical Sectors to Return to Safe Workplaces
 - This focuses on industrial and manufacturing businesses, as well as businesses in office-based settings, and allows workers to return to work in these specific sectors starting Monday, April 27. This does not include any customer-facing businesses.
 - Workers are only permitted to go to work, home, and childcare if needed.
 - Businesses must establish and implement a COVID-19 preparedness plan.
 - Employees who can work from home must continue to do so.
- **Executive Order 20-41:** Authorizing and Directing the Commissioner of Education to Extend the Distance Learning Period and Continue to Provide a Safe Learning Environment for Minnesota's Students
 - This extends the distancing learning period for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Executive Order 20-42:** Ensuring that Emergency Economic Relief Does Not Prevent Eligibility for Essential Human Services Programs During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Ensures that \$1,200 stimulus payments and other state or federal funding are not counted as income when determining eligibility for DHS administered programs.
- **Executive Order 20-43:** Allowing Shareholders Flexibility to Hold Remote Meetings and Avoid Gatherings During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Allows press release notice of meeting changes from physical to remote.
- **Executive Order 20-44:** Providing for Emergency Relief from Regulations to Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota
 - Temporarily suspends weight-related restrictions for vehicles transporting livestock.
- **Executive Order 20-45:** Providing for Emergency Relief from Regulations to Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota
 - Temporarily suspends weight-related restrictions for vehicles transporting wood products, including biomass and forage, used exclusively for the composting process of animals that have been depopulated due to impacts of COVID19.
- **Executive Order 20-46:** Authorizing Out-of-State Healthcare Professionals to Render Aid in Minnesota during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Allows out-of-state healthcare professionals who hold an active, relevant license, certificate, or other permit in good standing issued by another state to render aid in Minnesota during the peacetime emergency.
- **Executive Order 20-47:** Clarifying Application of Executive Order 20-33 to Homeless Encampments

- Exempts Individuals without homes from the restrictions in stay at home orders, and permits them to move between emergency shelters, drop-in centers, and encampments.
 - Encampments should not be subject to sweeps or disbandment by state or local governments, as such sweeps increase the potential risk and spread of COVID-19.
 - If sufficient alternate housing is provided by a local government, or the size becomes dangerous, encampments may be restricted or closed.
- **Executive Order 20-48:** Extending and Modifying Stay at Home Order, Continuing Temporary Closure of Bars, Restaurants, and Other Places of Public Accommodation, and Allowing Additional Workers in Certain Non-Critical Sectors to Return to Safe Workplaces
 - Extends the stay at home order through Sunday, May 17 at 11:59 pm with continuing exemptions for health, safety, outdoor activity, obtaining essential supplies, etc.
 - Encourages people to wear masks when leaving their homes.
 - Those who can work from home, still should continue to do so. Other essential employees can leave home for work purposes.
 - Allows some non-critical sectors to return to business including retail businesses that can operate via curbside pickup or delivery. It also requires these businesses to create and post a plan for safely returning to work.
- **Executive Order 20-49:** Allowing Commercial Food Trucks to Operate at Highway Rest Areas in Minnesota During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Allows currently licensed food trucks to temporarily operate at rest areas. Allows MDH or delegated local health departments to conduct inspections on the trucks.
- **Executive Order 20-50:** Ensuring the Protection of Emergency Government Support and Consumers' Financial Security from Consumer Garnishment Actions During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Makes recovery support payments exempt from debt and collections actions except for domestic support obligations. Suspends service of garnishment summons.
- **Executive Order 20-51:** Requiring Facilities to Prioritize Surgeries and Procedures and Provide Safe Environment during COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Allows elective procedures to resume and requires facilities to develop [plans](#) for prioritizing procedures and ensuring adequate protection for staff and visitors. They are also required to collaborate with other providers in the community to ensure adequate supplies and surge capacity. They also must have procedures to screen those coming in facilities.
- **Executive Order 20-52:** Authorizing Students in Critical Sectors to Return to Safe Higher Education Institutions for Completion of a Postsecondary Credential
 - Authorize higher education institutions to expand in-person activities and programming that are necessary for the completion of a degree, diploma, certificate, credential, or licensure in a critical sector. Requires institutions to develop COVID preparedness plans.
- **Executive Order 20-53:** Extending the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency Declared in Executive Order 20-01

- Extends the peacetime emergency through June 12, 2020.
- **Executive Order 20-54:** Protecting Workers from Unsafe Working Conditions and Retaliation During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Prohibits employers from discriminating or retaliating against a worker communicating with management personnel about occupational safety or health matters related to COVID-19, including asking questions or expressing concerns.
 - Employers must not discriminate or retaliate in any way against any worker for wearing protective equipment provided that protective equipment does not violate industry standards or existing employer policies. Also allows employers to require use of employer-provided protective gear. Allows workers to refuse to work under conditions they believe puts them in danger.
- **Executive Order 20-55:** Protecting the Rights and Health of At-Risk Populations during the COVID19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Defines at risk persons and urges them to stay home. Urges governmental and other entities to make 24-hour shelter or other safe spaces available for those experiencing homelessness. Continues to protect encampments from sweeps or disbandment.
- **Executive Order 20-56:** Safely Reopening Minnesota's Economy and Ensuring Safe Non-Work Activities during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Encourages people to wear masks when in public. Allows opening of more businesses but encourages people to limit travel and keep social gatherings to less than 10 people while still following social distancing guidelines.
 - Bars, restaurants and other places of public accommodation are closed until June 1. Charges commissioners with developing plans for safe reopening of the businesses. Encourages those who can work from home to do so.
- **Executive Order 20-57:** Authorizing and Directing the Commissioner of Education to Allow for a Safe and Effective Summer Learning Environment for Minnesota's Students
 - Allows school districts and charter schools to offer summer programs and extended school year services through either a distance learning model or a hybrid model that employs both distance learning and in-school learning.
- **Executive Order 20-58:** Authorizing the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to Hold Remote Meetings as Necessary to Protect Health and Safety
 - Allows Public Utilities Commissions to hold required meetings by phone or other electronic means.
- **Executive Order 20-59:** Extending the Relief from Regulations for Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota Declared in Executive Orders 20-06 and 20-37
 - Extends the previous orders by exempting vehicles and drivers providing direct assistance for emergency relief efforts in response to COVID-19 from certain regulations.

- **Executive Order 20-60:** Extending the Relief from Regulations for Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota Declared in Executive Orders 20-24 and 20-44
 - Exempts drivers and vehicles from restrictions related to transporting livestock or animal carcasses during the public health emergency.
- **Executive Order 20-61:** Extending the Relief from Regulations for Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota Declared in Executive Order 20-45
 - Temporarily suspends some regulations for motor carriers to transport wood products, including biomass and forage, used exclusively for the composting process of animals that have been depopulated due to impacts of COVID19.
- **Executive Order 20-62:** Amending Executive Order 20-56 to Allow Worship, Weddings, and Funerals to Proceed as Safely as Possible during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
 - Effective May 26 at 11:59 pm, places of worship, funeral homes, and other venues that offer gathering space for weddings, funerals, or planned services may host events with over 10 people, if they adhere to several regulations:
 - Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distancing between households;
 - If indoors, occupancy must not exceed 25 percent of the normal occupant, with a maximum of 250 people in a single space;
 - If outdoors, gatherings must not exceed 250 individuals; and,
 - Must develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in accordance with MDH guidance.

See all of Gov. Walz's Executive Orders visit [here](#) or [here](#).