Together, as One Minnesota, we can save lives.

Wednesday, November 18, 2020
6:00 p.m.

STAY SAFE MN
COVID-19 Update
Office of Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan
State of the Pandemic

COVID-19 pandemic surging across Minnesota and the nation.

- People are being infected, hospitalized, admitted to the ICU, and are dying at record levels.
- More than one-third of all new COVID-19 infections in Minnesota have no known source.
- COVID-19 now overwhelming our businesses, schools, hospitals, and the congregate care facilities that house our most vulnerable residents.
The virus is surging again.

Minnesota’s COVID-19 cases are increasing at an alarming pace.

- March: 29 weeks, 100,000 cases
- November: 6 weeks, +100,000 cases
- November: 3 weeks, +100,000 projected new cases in the next 3 weeks

=10,000 CASES
More people infected every week.

Daily Confirmed Cases (7-day rolling average)

Source: MDH Situation Update for COVID-19
Rate of new infections increasing.

The ground is shifting under our feet each day.

7-day case growth

- 10.7% on October 17, 2020
- 75.5% on November 8, 2020
Virus surge has put our hospitals on the verge of dangerous capacity shortages

- Beds across entire hospital systems are filling up.
- Metro and Greater Minnesota.
- Some hospitals nearing the point of turning new patients away – and some already are.

Why does COVID-19 surge matter?

Front-line workers are getting sick or exposed in the community, jeopardizing care for those who need it most.

- Hospitals have open beds but staffing shortages mean they can’t be used.
- Too many long-term care and nursing home staff are unable to care for those who rely on them.
- And fire and police departments are being hit hard, making it more difficult to respond to calls, and imperiling community safety.
Why does the COVID-19 surge matter?

Children and families are bearing the burden of the surge.

- Teacher and caregiver heroes are getting sick or forced to quarantine.
- Schools can’t stay open.
- Families are struggling to find an impossible balance.
- We have to prioritize children, families, and their teachers and caregivers.
What can we do?

Use the data and the research to understand how COVID-19 is spreading in our communities.

• **WHO** is at risk? All of us.

• **WHEN** are we at risk? All the time.

• We now focus on **WHERE** do we find the most risk.
What do we know about risk?

More risky: Gathering together for long periods of time.

More risky: Indoors vs outdoors.

More risky: No mask vs masked.

More risky: Seated close together for extended periods of time.
Use our knowledge to reduce risk

Knowing what creates risk helps us target higher risk areas.

- Getting a haircut, with masks for all, & protective equipment for employees, carries lower risk.
- Shopping in a grocery or retail store, with a mask and socially distanced, carries lower risk.
- Get-togethers with friends, seated, unmasked for periods of time while eating/drinking, carries more risk – whether at a restaurant or in your own home.
Time to Dial Back, Minnesota

Dial back to save lives

Restrictions begin on
Friday, November 20 at 11:59 pm
We’ve done it before. Time to do it again.

In the spring, I asked and you responded. We stayed home to build capacity.

• Frontline workers are getting the PPE they need.
• Our hospitals managed the demand.
• Minnesota is a national leader in testing.

The virus stayed under control through the summer and fall. But that has changed.
Pause to save lives.

What activities and establishments are paused?

- Social gathering with other households
- In-person dining
- Adult and youth sports, fitness gyms, and other activities that bring people together
- Bowling alleys, bingo halls, theaters
- Receptions, private parties, other celebrations
- Outdoor events and entertainment
What we can still do.

What’s still open?

• Schools still follow Safe Learning plan – look to local districts for learning model.
• Child care providers can remain open.
• You can still get groceries, shop for the holidays, and get takeout for supper.
• Places of worship are not impacted.
• You can still go to the salon or barber shop.
• Get outside and enjoy the outdoors.
Bridge to Better Times

We will take strong steps to slow the spread of COVID-19.

- This is hard.
- You’ve given up so much, and now we’re asking more.
Thank you