STATE OF MINNESOTA

COVID-19 Update

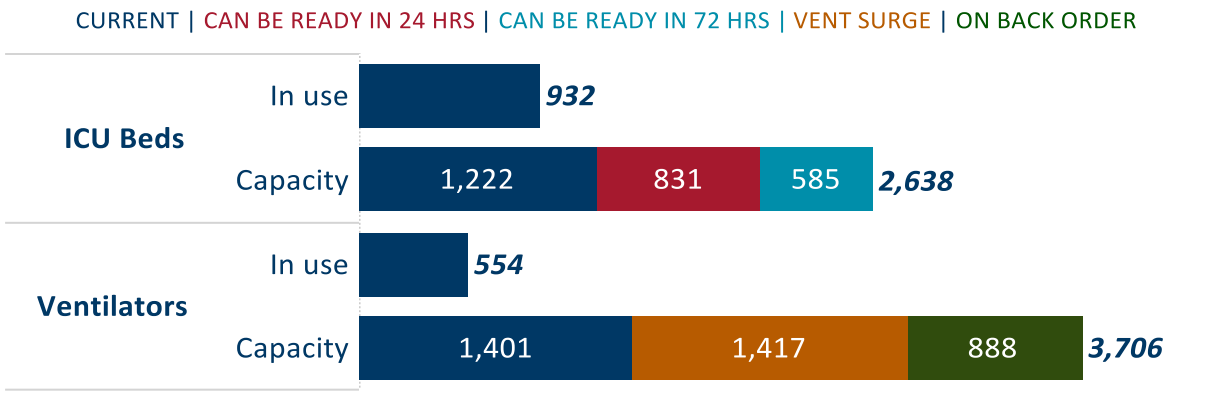
Office of Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan

4/23/20

COVID-19 response in Minnesota

- By staying home, Minnesotans have **saved lives and bought critical time**
- We've worked with hospitals to increase surge capacity
- We've partnered with Minnesota's business community to purchase ventilators, PPE, and supplies
- We've partnered with non-profits and foundations to provide critical support to Minnesotans during this trying time.
- We've learned more about the virus and planned for what comes next

HOSPITAL SURGE CAPACITY



CRITICAL CARE SUPPLIES

	Face masks	Face shields*	Gloves (non-latex)	Gowns*	N95 respirators
Obtained	615K	128K	5.7M	76K	418K
Distributed	309K	84K	741K	69K	82K
Current inventory	306K	45K	5.0M	6K	336K
Awaiting delivery	9.4M	103K	10.1M	1.1M	1.6M

*Gowns include gown alternatives | *Face shields includes other eye protection
SOURCE: MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Challenges remain

- COVID-19 has changed how we work, care for our loved ones, and go to school
- Minnesota will continue to see infections increase, and sadly, we will continue to lose friends and family to this virus
- The pandemic has created new challenges for all of us, but especially for our neighbors who were already struggling
- Existing racial and economic inequities have been exacerbated by this virus
- We can’t buy every supply we need, given global demand
- There’s no silver bullet or single solution that will get things back to normal
- All responses to COVID-19 have trade-offs

Objectives for moving forward

- Minnesotans living healthy, safe, and happy lives
- Slow spread and slowly build immunity, realizing elimination is impossible
- Protect those working on the front lines by increasing access to personal protective equipment
- Ensure our health system can care for all of those who require treatment for COVID and other conditions
- Gradually allow more Minnesotans to go back to work
- Safely and slowly resume in-person contacts and other activities that are critical for our well-being

Approach for moving forward

- Continue to stay at home whenever possible
- For settings where physical presence is critical, gradually and safely loosen restrictions starting with settings most conducive to safe practices
- Continue to weigh the very real economic impacts of every decision, and how they impact existing racial and economic inequities
- Work toward long-term protection of at-risk populations
- Identify and test all symptomatic people of every race, age, income, and zip code
- Isolate confirmed cases and those who have been in contact with them, and expand surveillance tools
- For every setting that re-opens, there must be a detailed plan

Factors to consider when loosening restrictions

Public Health

Key Questions

- ✔ How does this impact the possible spread of the disease?
- ✔ How prepared are we to test, trace, and isolate those in our community who are exposed?
- ✔ Are our hospitals prepared to treat increasing patients?
- ✔ How does this impact public health for non-COVID-19 illnesses?

Social Distancing

Key Questions

- ✔ Can you effectively social distance when doing this action?
- ✔ Do we have the supplies needed to keep workers and customers safe?
- ✔ How big is the gathering and will people be safe?
- ✔ Are the settings predictable in how people gather and interact?

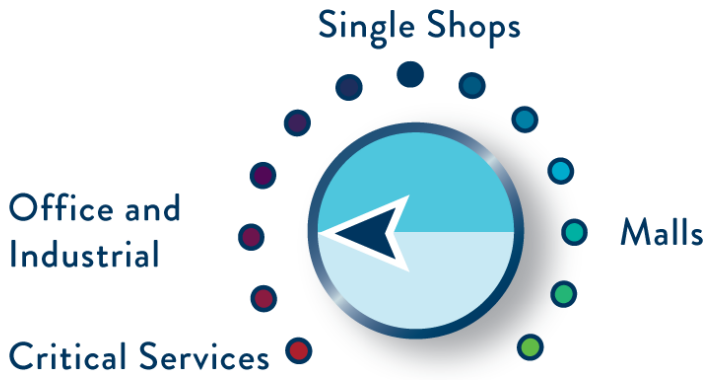
Societal Well-being

Key Questions

- ✔ Will this action help spur economic recovery?
- ✔ Does this action promote the mental health and well-being of the public?
- ✔ Does this action encourage our communities to return to civic life in a thoughtful way?
- ✔ Does this action meaningfully improve the lives of those who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19?

Safely adjusting the dials

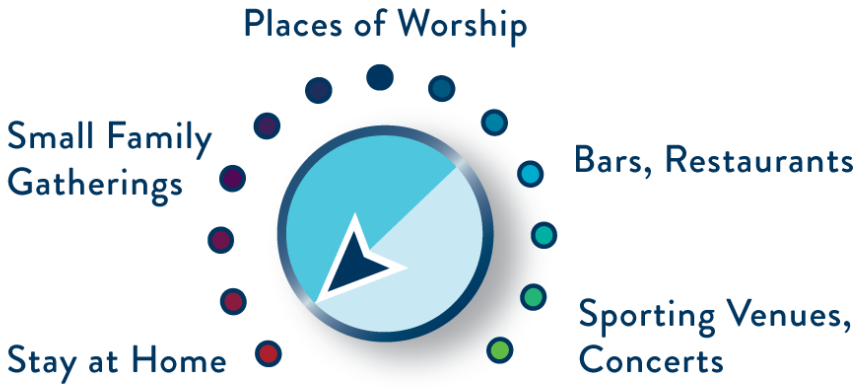
WORKPLACE SETTINGS



Highly Predictable and Smaller-sized Settings

Less Predictable and Larger-sized Settings

SOCIAL SETTINGS



Highly Predictable and Smaller-sized Settings

Less Predictable and Larger-sized Settings

SCHOOL SETTINGS

SAFE PRACTICES ON

- Wash your hands often
- Stay home when sick
- Social distance yourself

COVID-19 RESPONSE ON

- Test symptomatic individuals
- Isolate positive cases and contact trace
- Protect those at heightened risk
- Build needed hospital capacity
- Procure critical care supplies

Prior to loosening restrictions for a given setting

The state will:

- Meet with stakeholder groups, whether business, non-profit, or other organization, to discuss unique dynamics of their environment
- Create template preparedness plan for use by responsible entities, tailored to each setting
- Provide opportunity for public comment on draft of those templates

Responsible entities will:

- Create a preparedness and enforcement plan; sign and certify
- Obtain necessary supplies (e.g., masks and gloves)
- Train and conduct health screenings of employees or volunteers
- Instruct customers on required safety precautions
- Effectively supervise and monitor implementation of plan
- Create plan for closing down/sanitizing the setting if a surge of COVID-19 flares up

Things will be different for quite some time

- We're slowly getting used to practices that we'll continue for some time, including:
  - Teleworking whenever possible
  - Wearing face masks in public
  - Symptom screening and temperature checks
  - Maintaining physical distance from each other
  - Forgoing things that we love, such as large sporting events or cultural gathering, until we can be sure they can be done safely

Plans for moving forward

- Stay Home MN **remains** in place until May 4
- Improve control of epidemic by testing every symptomatic Minnesotan
- Extend distance learning through the end of the school year
- Safely allow additional Minnesotans to return to work

Expand testing and tracing of COVID-19

- Yesterday launched statewide strategy to expand COVID-19 testing to improve control of this epidemic and help reopen Minnesota's economy
  - Partnership with Minnesota's health care systems and leading research institutions
  - Test every symptomatic individual
  - Capacity to test as many as 20,000 Minnesotans per day
- Slow the spread of the virus by making sure infected people are isolated and their contacts are quarantined and tested
- Help to identify and respond to emerging "hotspots" of infection
- Develop research in search of prevention or cure for COVID-19

Distance learning until end of school year

- Distance learning in Minnesota will be extended to the end of the school year
- Distance learning contributes to social distancing, and supports the health of Minnesota's families
- This is not a perfect solution, some students and families are really struggling with distance learning
- We are aggressively pursuing opportunities to expand technology for students, guidance for teachers on how to best connect with students, supports for families, and more

Limited and safe return to work before May 4

- Currently, roughly 2.6 million people working in Minnesota right now
- Today's order was developed in consultation with hundreds of businesses, labor and workers organizations, and with public health experts
- It allows roughly 80,000 to 100,000 more employees in similar industries to safely return to work on Monday, April 27, in industrial, manufacturing, and office settings
- To re-open, these businesses must:
  1) Create, share, and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that sets out the actions they are taking to ensure social distancing, worker hygiene, and facility cleaning and disinfection necessary to keep workers safe
  2) Engage in health screening of employees and ensure that sick employees stay home
  3) Continue to work from home whenever possible
- Visit mn.gov/deed/safework for more information

Thank you to frontline workers

- As we discuss all that we are considering in order to get Minnesotans back to work safely, it is important to recognize that there are many Minnesotans who have never stopped going to work.
- Thank you to all the workers—providing health care and child care, supporting the education of our children, ensuring our most vulnerable have shelter, the workers who grow our food, process our food and stock our grocery store shelves, correctional employees, maintenance and janitorial workers, public employees, and manufacturing workers who our meeting our critical supply needs and so many more who are on the front lines against COVID-19.

What's next?

- Continue our response and recovery efforts
  - Testing, tracing, and isolation
  - Buy PPE and supplies for our hospitals and others
  - Build out hospital surge capacity
  - Protect those most at-risk for the longer-term
- Monitor the virus closely and report data daily to Minnesotans
- Start turning the dial toward more re-opening using the factors and conditions discussed today
- But be prepared to dial backward if needed based on data
- Even as we re-open more, life won't look the same for a while

Thank you!

Together, as One Minnesota, we can save lives.

Office of Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan