Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Driver and Vehicle Services

Emergency Communication Networks

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Minnesota State Patrol

Office of Communications

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Pipeline Safety

Office of Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 06, 2020

SEOC Update #14: Multiple Hotlines Available for Minnesotans to Report COVID-19 Concerns, Ask Questions

ST. PAUL — A new helpline to report discrimination is now available in addition to four other hotlines for Minnesotans to raise COVID-19-related concerns and ask questions. Here is a rundown of Minnesota's COVID-19 response hotlines:

- **Health questions**
  800-657-3903
  651-201-3920
  7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  Seven days a week

- **Housing questions**
  For single-family residences:
  651-296-8215
  For multi-family residences:
  651-297-4455
  Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **School and childcare questions**
  651-297-1304
  800-657-3504
  7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  Seven days a week

- **Discrimination Helpline**
  833-454-0148

- **Report a concern about the stay at home order**
  651-793-3746
  Email: sahviolations@state.mn.us

State agencies and volunteer organizations continue working from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to keep Minnesotans safe and coordinate efforts to provide essential services and information during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEOC looking to future

- The SEOC remains fully activated and staffed either physically or virtually by all state agencies and several volunteer organizations.
- SEOC officials are looking at alternate ways of maintaining the state's response should changes become necessary. That includes developing plans for possible alternatives for the SEOC.
- The SEOC coordinated 35 priority deliveries of personal protective equipment (PPE) on Sunday. Deliveries are being made by redeployed state employees along with UPS.
- SEOC planners and Military Affairs continue to conduct site visits at possible alternative care facilities. Today those visits were in the southern part of the state.
- The SEOC continues to support the state hotline. The hotline received 87 calls over the weekend.

Here are today's updates and actions from state agencies and volunteer organizations:

Number of patients in ICU rises from 48 to 57
Minnesota Update

- Total of 986 lab-confirmed cases in Minnesota – up 51 cases from April 5.
  - 30 reported deaths; average age is 86 with the age range of the deceased being 58 to 100.

    - Since the start of the outbreak, 223 patients in Minnesota have been hospitalized.
    - 115 patients currently hospitalized with 57 in the ICU; the rest are recovering at home.
- See the latest situation report on the Minnesota Department of Health's website.
- There were 554 calls to MDH public hotline on April 4.

Global/National Update

- Worldwide: More than 1.3 million cases and 73,703 deaths as of this morning.
- U.S.: 352,546 cases (NY: 130,689; NJ: 37,505; MI: 15,718; CA: 15,207; LA: 14,687) and 10,377 deaths.

Minnesota Department of Human Rights launches Discrimination Helpline

- Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan today launched a Discrimination Helpline to reinforce the state's efforts to protect the civil rights of Minnesotans during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The toll-free helpline (833-454-0148) will allow those who experience or witness bias and discrimination to report incidents to the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. Read the full news release here.

Veterans impacted by COVID-19 may be eligible for grants
Minnesota veterans impacted by COVID-19 may be eligible for grants from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). The MDVA began accepting applications today from Minnesota veterans who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. MDVA will award one-time financial relief grants in the amount of $1,000. Funding is available for both Disaster Relief Grants and Special Needs Grants.
Eligible applicants must be:

1. A veteran or the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran as defined by MN Statute 197.447
2. A Minnesota resident
3. Negatively financial impacted by COVID-19
4. For more information or to apply, visit MinnesotaVeteran.org/COVIDRelief.

State fire marshal working to ensure businesses not blocking emergency exits
State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) inspectors are working with local businesses and fire departments to ensure emergency exits are not blocked or made inaccessible as stores try to limit the number of shoppers coming into businesses. Anyone aware of a store blocking exits should contact their local fire department or city officials.

Fatalities on the rise across the state
Traffic may be reduced on Minnesota roads during this challenging time but the number of road fatalities is rising. Of the 28 preliminary fatalities on Minnesota roads since March 16, half (14) are either speed-related or caused by careless/negligent driving. Fatal crashes by year:

- 2020: 24 (resulting in 28 fatalities)
- 2019: 12
- 2018: 10
- 2017: 10

Officials are asking Minnesotans to help make sure hospital beds are available for those dealing with COVID-19. Preventing critical injuries from a crash can help make that happen.

Traffic volumes remain significantly below 2019 levels, but April 4-5 traffic is up from last weekend
The Minnesota Department of Transportation continues to monitor traffic volumes statewide. For the weekend of April 4-5, 2020, there was an uptick in traffic from the previous weekend (March 28-29, 2020), but traffic volumes still remain significantly below last year at this time.

- Statewide: Traffic volumes on Saturday, April 4, were down 48 percent compared to Saturday averages for April 2019. Traffic volumes on Sunday, April 5, were down 50 percent compared to Sunday averages for April 2019.
- Metro area: Traffic volumes on Saturday, April 4, were down 49 percent compared to Saturday averages for April 2019. Traffic volumes on Sunday, April 5, were down 47 percent compared to Sunday averages for April 2019.

For comparison, during the first weekend of the stay at home order (March 28-29) traffic volumes were:

Statewide:

- Saturday: Traffic volumes March 28 were down 55 percent statewide compared to Saturday averages for March 2019.
- Sunday: Traffic volumes March 29 were down 54 percent statewide compared to Sunday averages for March 2019.

Metro:

- Saturday: Traffic volumes on March 28 were down 59 percent compared to Saturday averages for March 2019.
- Sunday: Traffic volumes on March 29 were down 56 percent compared to Sunday averages for March 2019.

Some deputy registrar offices reopen under new federal guidelines
New federal guidelines allow deputy registrar offices to provide limited motor vehicle services if they choose to reopen beginning April 6. No face-to-face transactions or driver services are available, and Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) exam stations and driver's license agent offices will remain closed for the duration of Gov. Walz's executive order. Minnesotans who need vehicle services during the stay at home order can find a list of open locations on the right side of the DVS locations page and should call their local office before visiting to find out what services are available.

Types of services allowed (services will vary by location):

- Registration renewals
- Title transfers
- Duplicate titles
- Vehicle permits
- Special plate applications
- New to fleet title/registration applications
- Dealer work
- International Registration Plan (IRP) and International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) at prorate offices only.

More information is on the DPS-DVS COVID-19 FAQ webpage.

Red Cross in Minnesota extends enhanced precautions at blood drives

- We greatly appreciate the outstanding support of blood donors in Minnesota. Through your generosity, we're preventing a blood shortage in our region and across the country during this uncertain and challenging time.
- Our 'appointments only' protocol for all blood drives and donation centers is extended through April 31. Also, we will continue collecting donations only at centers and sponsored drives, not bloodmobiles, through May 31.
- Additional blood drive safety precautions, such as the wearing of basic face masks by staff and volunteers, continue. Donors can wear their own masks at drives.
- We encourage healthy individuals to keep scheduled blood and platelets donation appointments. Look for new appointments in May and June at RedCrossBlood.org.
- In advance of seasonal severe weather, we're continuing to reach out to our emergency management partners around the state following updates to our disaster congregate shelter protocols in a pandemic environment.

National Guard continues support of state agencies with COVID-19; flooding now added to the list
The Minnesota National Guard continues to support MDH, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Homeland Security and Emergency Management and other agencies with planning, air and ground transportation, and logistical support. In addition to their COVID-19 response, Minnesota National Guard has been requested to support levee patrol, traffic control and provide transportation assistance by the Marshall County sheriff for flooding concerns in Oslo, Minnesota.