STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

Emergency Executive Order 21-16

Rescinding Emergency Executive Orders 20-03, 20-25, 20-41, 20-57, and 20-102; Amending Emergency Executive Order 20-82

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present an unprecedented and rapidly evolving challenge to our State. Since I first declared a peacetime emergency in response to this pandemic, my administration has taken proactive measures using the authority granted by the Legislature to the Governor under the Minnesota Emergency Management Act, Minnesota Statutes 2020, Chapter 12. We have used that authority to take bold actions to protect our friends and neighbors from contracting COVID-19, build hospital capacity, secure critical care and personal protective equipment for healthcare providers, launch an aggressive testing strategy, and implement an effective and efficient vaccine delivery system. These actions have slowed the spread of the virus and have saved lives. It is important for us to assess the continued need for existing executive orders. In this Executive Order, I am rescinding executive orders that are no longer necessary.

On March 16, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-03, providing the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs ("MDVA") the authority to restrict visitation at Minnesota Veterans Homes of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel. Executive Order 20-03 was an important first step in protecting our veterans, and those who care for them, from contracting COVID-19. With the introduction of safe and effective vaccines to Minnesota, we can celebrate that over 97 percent of the residents and over 81 percent of the staff of Minnesota Veterans Homes have been vaccinated. Our collective action and the successful prioritization of vulnerable communities for vaccination has mitigated the risk of contracting COVID-19 in these congregate living facilities. For these reasons, MDVA no longer needs the authority to restrict visitation. Executive Order 20-03 is no longer necessary and can be rescinded.

On March 31, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-25, permitting the Department of Public Safety to suspend continuing education requirements for peace officers and to extend the license renewal requirements for firefighters, detectives, and protective agents. We took this action to ensure that essential workers could continue to provide services needed to maintain public safety and that help was immediately available for those who needed it during the COVID-19

pandemic. Since issuing Executive Order 20-25, most peace officers have completed their continuing education requirements, and firefighters, detectives, and protective agents have either completed their licensing or do not need renewal extensions. For these reasons, Executive Order 20-25 is no longer necessary and can be rescinded.

On April 23, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-41, authorizing the Minnesota Department of Education ("MDE") to extend the distance learning period to the remainder of the 2019-2020 school calendar year. Executive Order 20-41 authorized school districts and charter schools to transfer operating funds from programs that were not already assigned to or encumbered by staff salary and benefits, or otherwise encumbered by federal law, to help cover additional costs incurred for nutrition services, community education programs, and technology supports for underserved students. Because the 2019-2020 school year has passed and distance learning in the current school year has been authorized under subsequent executive orders, Executive Order 20-41 is no longer necessary and can be rescinded.

On May 14, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-57, authorizing MDE to provide public school districts and charter schools the option to offer summer learning through a hybrid model of distance learning and in-school learning, or to continue distance learning, during the 2020 summer school session. Because the 2020 summer school session has passed and distance and hybrid learning has been authorized under subsequent executive orders, Executive Order 20-57 is no longer necessary and can be rescinded.

On December 14, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-102, amending Executive Order 20-05 and allowing the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development ("DEED") an extended timeframe to calculate employers' experience ratings from December 15, 2020 to January 30, 2021. This action allowed DEED to focus on providing financial relief to Minnesotans during the pandemic, and it allowed time for DEED to work with the Legislature to enact a broader solution. DEED worked collaboratively with the Legislature to codify important changes to protect Minnesota businesses and our unemployment system in Minnesota Laws 2021, Chapter 2, Section 2. Due to this recent legislation, Executive Order 20-102 is no longer necessary and can be rescinded.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. Executive Order 20-03 is rescinded.

2. Executive Order 20-25 is rescinded.

3. Executive Order 20-41 is rescinded.

4. Executive Order 20-57 is rescinded.

5. Executive Order 20-102 is rescinded. All other provisions of Executive Order 20-05, as amended by Executive Order 20-29, remain in effect.

6. Effective immediately, paragraph 15 of Executive Order 20-82 is amended by the following additions (indicated by underlined text) and deletions (indicated by strikethrough):

    15. ~~Pursuant to paragraph 17 of Executive Order 20-57,~~ I direct the Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, to continue to update guidance for in-person learning, hybrid-learning, and distance learning during the 2020-21 school year to protect the health and safety of students, their families, school staff, or the public.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 4.035, subdivision 2, and section 12.32, this Executive Order is effective immediately upon approval by the Executive Council.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on March 26, 2021.

Tim Walz
Governor

Filed According to Law:

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Approved by the Executive Council on March 26, 2021:

Alice Roberts-Davis
Secretary, Executive Council