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

Bruce Gordon, Director of Communications

CONTACT:
Bruce Gordon 651-201-7171
bruce.gordon@state.mn.us

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SEOC Update #23: Golf Courses, Bait Shops Among Businesses Allowed to Reopen Under Executive Order Issued Friday

ST. PAUL — Minnesotans now have more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic under an executive order Gov. Tim Walz issued Friday.

Executive Order 20-38 allows Minnesotans to engage in a range of activities, including golfing, boating, fishing, hunting, and hiking, as long as they follow new outdoor recreation guidelines. These guidelines include maintaining 6-foot social distancing, avoiding crowded areas, and staying close to home. Learn more here about the Department of Natural Resources' outdoor recreation guidelines.

Under Executive Order 20-38, the following may reopen:

- Golf courses and driving ranges
- Outdoor shooting ranges and game farms
- Bait shops for live bait
- Private ski hill bike trails
- Boating and off-highway vehicle services, including:
  - Marina services
  - Dock installation and other lake services
  - Boat and off-highway vehicle sales and repair, by appointment only

Health officials monitoring jump in cases at pork processing facility in Worthington

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has been closely following developments at the JBS pork processing facility in Worthington, where there has been a significant jump in cases confirmed in the last day or so.

- According to initial reports, there are at least 38 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Worthington area, and more are expected pending test results.
- MDH officials are working with local public health agencies and regional health care partners to help protect the workers and their families.
- MDH is working with plant officials to determine how the plant can continue to operate safely, for example by finding ways to adjust social distancing and other practices inside the plant.

COVID-19 deaths surpass 100 in Minnesota

- 2,071 lab-confirmed cases in Minnesota — an increase of 160 cases since April 16. This is the largest daily increase since the first COVID-19 case was reported in Minnesota.
- 111 reported deaths — an increase of 17 deaths from April 16.
- 222 patients are currently hospitalized with 106 in intensive care.
- 1,066 patients have been released from isolation.
- Learn more about the latest lab-diagnosed cases on the COVID-19 public dashboard.

State officials obtain millions of gloves

- Staff in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) working with FEMA secured 50,000 face shields and more than 2.7 million nitrile (non-latex) gloves in a variety of sizes. Officials continue to work on personal protective equipment (PPE) issues for medical professionals and first responders.
- SEOC staff are working with hotels across the state to determine available space for hospital employees and first responders who may need temporary housing.
- The SEOC continues to support the state hotline. The hotline received 82 calls on Thursday. State employees are staffing the hotline and are answering calls from 8 a.m.

to 6 p.m. daily at either 651-297-1304 or 800-657-3504.

Commerce Department alerts Minnesotans to review their insurance policies now before severe weather hits

Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley is encouraging Minnesotans to take a few simple steps to manage the financial impact in case of a tornado, flooding or other severe weather.

- Now is the time for Minnesotans to review their insurance needs and coverage to make sure they are protected.
- The Commerce Department website also features a Disaster Information Center with guidance about how you can plan ahead and what to do if you suffer storm damage.
- More tips to help Minnesotans prepare for severe weather are online.

Red Cross in Minnesota: Meeting needs for blood donation and disaster relief

- People who need blood transfusions because of cancer treatment, trauma, and other emergencies can continue to rely on Red Cross blood donors, including hundreds of recent first-time donors in Minnesota for lifesaving blood.
- Donations are meeting immediate needs, but the need is constant: donors are encouraged to keep current appointments or to schedule appointments in the weeks ahead at redcrossblood.org.
- Through remote service delivery, Red Cross volunteers continue to support people affected by home fires in Minnesota, including two multi-unit apartment fires in the Minneapolis and St. Paul metro area.
- Even in this pandemic environment, Red Cross disaster relief includes assistance for shelter, food and clothing, as well as health and mental health support.
- Hotel sheltering, rather than congregate sheltering, continues to be our preferred option when supporting housing needs for people affected by disasters big and small.

Traffic volumes remain significantly low statewide

Minnesota Department of Transportation continues to monitor traffic volumes statewide.

- Metro area: Traffic volumes on Thursday, April 16, were down 32 percent compared to Thursday averages for April 2019.
- Statewide: Traffic volumes on Thursday, April 16, were down 26 percent compared to Thursday averages for April 2019.