

# STATE AGENCY COVID-19 UPDATES

**April 30, 2020**

## **SEOC supports food delivery to tribal nations**

Crews will deliver food to tribal nations across the state starting today. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is coordinating the deliveries.

- Four trucks will travel to the White Earth Nation in Mahanomen and four trucks to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Cass Lake today with dry goods. Four trucks will head to the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Morton and two trucks to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in Onamia on Friday. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) provided drivers for the trucks. Three Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff are also assisting.
- NECHAMA — Jewish Response to Disaster is mobilizing two vehicles to deliver foodstuffs from Gaylord to four tribal communities by Monday.
- SEOC and Department of Human Services (DHS) staff are working with private sector resources to get cold transportation for freezer meals to the Red Lake Nation and Mille Lacs.

## **Public comment requested on resuming elective surgeries**

In an effort to reduce the impacts and slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Tim Walz issued an Executive Order to delay all non-essential or elective surgeries and procedures, including non-emergent or elective dental care. The Minnesota Department of Health is requesting feedback on the [Guidance for Elective Procedures](#). They are asking Minnesotans to review their guidance and [complete this survey](#) to provide their feedback. All responses between April 30 and May 2 at noon will be read and considered.

## **COVID-19 deaths up 24 since Wednesday**

- 343 reported deaths — an increase of 24 since April 29.
- 5,136 lab-confirmed cases in Minnesota — an increase of 492 cases since April 29.
- 365 patients are currently hospitalized with 130 in intensive care units (ICU). The number of ICU patients is up 11 from April 29.
- 2,172 patients have been released from isolation.
- Learn more about the latest lab-diagnosed cases on the [COVID-19 public dashboard](#).

## **Work continues in SEOC on long-term care facility staffing plans**

The SEOC remains fully activated and staffed either physically or virtually by all state agencies and several volunteer organizations.

- State Healthcare Coordination Center officials and the SEOC are working on staffing solutions for long-term care facilities across the state.
- Work continues on standing up the alternate care site at Presbyterian Homes-Langton Place in Roseville.
- The SEOC continues supporting the state hotline, which received 47 calls on April 29. Employees are answering calls at 651-297-1304 or 800-657-3504. The hotline is currently operating from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Hours will change to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays beginning Saturday, May 2. Hours during the week will remain the same.

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## **Washing hands, social distancing & safe driving all help battle COVID-19**

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety reports preliminary figures of 89 traffic fatalities YTD compared with 84 reported at this time last year. While traffic volumes remain low, speeding and careless/negligent driving continue to be among the top contributing factors in traffic fatalities. From March 16-April 29, there have been 38 fatal crashes and 42 deaths this year compared with:

- 27 fatal crashes and 29 deaths in 2019
- 32 fatal crashes and 35 deaths in 2018
- 32 fatal crashes and 33 deaths in 2017

Minnesotans can help make sure hospital beds are available for COVID-19 patients by making smart choices on the road. Preventing critical injuries from a crash will help save valuable healthcare resources for the battle against the coronavirus.

## **Commerce Department encourages additional safeguards for property and casualty insurance customers**

Minnesota Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley sent a letter on Wednesday to property and casualty carriers — the companies that hold or issue auto and homeowners insurance policies — urging all carriers to provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic. Daily life of Minnesotans has changed under the stay at home order and the department encourages insurers to take these lifestyle changes into account.

- Many Minnesotans have already received notifications from their auto insurance company that they will see some relief, like receiving premium rebates or credits due to the decrease in driving during the Stay Home Order, working to set up payment plans and extending grace periods to pay premiums.
- The voluntary relief provided by many insurance companies has been welcome news to Minnesota consumers. The Commerce Department urges all insurance companies to continue to review their contractual obligations to Minnesotans and Minnesota businesses to find ongoing ways to provide relief.
- More details are on the [Commerce Department website](#).

## **MDE offers online professional development for educators May 1 & 4**

The Minnesota Department of Education is offering two full days of professional development to educators through a series of webinars on Friday, May 1 and Monday, May 4.

- Webinars will be focused on giving educators tools to support students, specifically students from communities that have been disproportionately burdened by distance learning.
- As previously reported, school districts and charter schools will not offer student instruction on May 1 and 4 to prepare for the next phase of distance learning. School districts and charter schools are expected to share their revised distance learning plans on their websites and with students and families in their school communities by Tuesday, May 5.
- The full list of available webinars are available on [MDE's website](#).

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## **Statewide traffic volumes slowly on the rise**

MnDOT continues to monitor [traffic volumes](#) statewide.

- Metro area: Traffic volumes on Wednesday, April 29 were down 26 percent compared to Wednesday averages for April 2019.  
Statewide: Traffic volumes on Wednesday, April 29 were down 19 percent compared to Wednesday averages for April 2019.