

STATE AGENCY COVID-19 UPDATES

May 1, 2020

SEOC calls on public and private partnerships for response efforts

The State Emergency Response Center (SEOC) remains fully activated and staffed either physically or virtually by all state agencies and several volunteer organizations.

- The SEOC is working with the Department of Human Services on a grant application for crisis counseling in Minnesota. These services would be offered once individual assistance is approved through Minnesota's federal disaster declaration.
- The SEOC continues supporting the state hotline, which received 65 calls on April 30. Staff are answering calls at 651-297-1304 or 800-657-3504. Beginning Saturday, May 2, weekend hours will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DVS offices closed until May 18 due to COVID-19; some deputy registrars offering limited vehicle services

All DVS exam stations and driver's license agent offices are closed until May 18 to follow Gov. Tim Walz's executive order for Minnesotans to stay home and slow the spread of COVID-19. More than 100 deputy registrar offices are open providing limited motor vehicle services. No face-to-face transactions or driver services are available. DVS staff continue to work remotely during this time, processing previously-submitted applications and answering public questions. More information is available on [the DVS website](#).

24 of 28 latest COVID-19 deaths were long-term care facility residents

- 371 reported deaths — an increase of 28 from April 30; 24 of the 28 fatalities are people in long-term care facilities.
- 5,730 lab-confirmed cases in Minnesota — an increase of 596 cases since April 30.
- 369 patients are currently hospitalized with 118 in intensive care units (ICU). The number of ICU patients is down 12 from April 30.
- 22,282 patients have been released from isolation.
- Learn more about the latest lab-diagnosed cases on the [COVID-19 public dashboard](#).

Traffic volumes trend upward as Minnesota slowly re-opens

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

- Metro area: Traffic volumes on Thursday, April 30 were down 13 percent compared to a year ago but have shot up from the previous day's volumes; traffic volumes on Wednesday, April 29 were down 26 percent compared to Wednesday averages for April 2019.
Statewide: Traffic volumes on Thursday, April 30 were down 7 percent compared to a year ago but increased significantly from the previous day's volumes; traffic volumes on Wednesday, April 29 were down 19 percent compared to Wednesday averages for April 2019.

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Changes in services, staying safe the topic of virtual HIV & COVID-19 community meeting

On April 22, 164 people gathered virtually to talk about COVID-19 and how the pandemic is affecting people living with HIV.

- The Virtual HIV & COVID-19 Community Meeting was well attended by people living with HIV and health and social service providers. In addition to the 152 attendees on Zoom and 12 viewers on YouTube during the livestream, as of May 1 there's been 181 total views on YouTube.
- At least one support group for people living with HIV used the livestream to host a Facebook watch party.
- Questions were solicited in advance to make sure the meeting content was meaningful for attendees.
- The meeting offered reassurance and resources and talked through availability and changes to essential HIV prevention, core medical, and support services during COVID-19. It also covered clinical information and health tips about COVID-19 and HIV and ended with an open question and answer session.
- The HIV Supports Section at the Minnesota Department of Human Services partnered with the Minnesota Department of Health STD/HIV/TB Section, the Hennepin County Public Health Ryan White Program, and the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center Minnesota/Iowa branch to host the meeting.

Public comment requested on resuming elective surgeries

In an effort to reduce the impacts and slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. 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.