

STATE AGENCY COVID-19 UPDATES

May 12, 2020

Schools reporting more than 11.1 million meals served

- MDE has asked districts and charter schools to self-report the daily number of meals they are serving to the school communities and the number of students receiving school-age care.
- The final count over the sixth week of distance learning, with about 364 school districts and charter schools reporting, are:
 - 2,265,312 meals served
 - 7,139 average school-age students cared for each day
- The combined total for the first six weeks of distance learning, with about 357 school districts and charter schools reporting, are:
 - 11,145,276 meals served
 - 6,873 average school-age students cared for each day

MFIP families to receive Emergency SNAP benefits

Minnesota Family Investment Program families will soon get a boost in their food budgets. The Minnesota Department of Human Services began issuing Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to current SNAP recipients in April and now, with additional federal approval, will issue these same benefits to more than 71,000 people in 27,000 households on MFIP and SNAP.

- The department will begin putting the Emergency SNAP benefits on Electronic Benefit Transfer cards for MFIP families the week of May 11, 2020, and moving forward on a month-by-month basis during the peacetime emergency. This means more than 300,000 Minnesotans will receive Emergency SNAP.
- The federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act gave states the option to provide SNAP households with the maximum SNAP allotment, which is based on household size. This additional money brings those SNAP households that have not met their maximum monthly limit for SNAP benefits up to the maximum. Households already receiving the maximum benefit will not receive additional benefits.
- These additional funds help SNAP recipients purchase healthy food for their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) supporting long term care facility work

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

- Officials in the SEOC are focusing on long term care (LTC) facilities. Staff are developing a plan to support LTC facilities that includes surveying healthcare coalition partners to gather input.
- The SEOC and workgroups developed new software that will assist in staffing of LTC facilities. That software is expected to be in use within the next few days.
- Regional staff in the SEOC are working with county storm shelters to provide cloth masks should residents need to use the shelters during severe weather.
- The SEOC continues supporting the state hotline, which received 58 calls on Monday. 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. Monday through Friday. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

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COVID-19 lab-confirmed cases top 12,000

- 614 reported deaths — an increase of 23 since May 11; 19 of the 23 deaths were people in long-term care facilities.
- 12,494 lab-confirmed cases in Minnesota — an increase of 695 cases since May 11.
- 496 patients are currently hospitalized with 199 in intensive care units (ICU). The number of ICU patients is up 5 from May 11.
- 8,223 patients have been released from isolation.
- Learn more about the latest lab-diagnosed cases on the [COVID-19 public dashboard](#).

Thirteen percent decrease in 911 calls from year-to-year for last week

According to statistics provided by CenturyLink to the Department of Public Safety division of Emergency Communication Networks (DPS-ECN), call volumes for Minnesota public safety answering points (PSAPs), also known as 911 dispatch centers, saw a 13 percent year-to-year decrease last week.

- Minnesota PSAPs answered 50,732 calls between May 3 through May 9 this year.
- In 2019, Minnesota PSAPs received 58,065 calls during that same comparable week (May 5 through May 11).

Traffic volumes remain below May 2019 averages

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

- Metro area: Traffic volumes on Monday, May 11, were down 22 percent compared to Monday averages for May 2019.
- Statewide: Traffic volumes on Monday, May 11, were down 21 percent compared to Monday averages for May 2019.