

# STATE AGENCY COVID-19 UPDATES

**May 27, 2020**

## **Consumer alert: free credit checks available**

This consumer alert from the Minnesota Department of Commerce provides information that the three major credit-reporting agencies are offering free credit checks for the next year. For those who have lost employment due to COVID-19 and are struggling to pay bills, there are steps that Minnesotans can take to protect their credit rating. See consumer alerts on the [Minnesota Department of Commerce's website](#).

## **State Emergency Operations Center supporting regional response efforts**

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

- Regional SEOC staff are working with county emergency managers to support their local response to COVID-19. Examples include:
  - First responder safety.
  - Backfilling for first responders when needed.
  - Distribution of bulk bleach and hand sanitizer.
- The Minnesota National Guard conducted testing in seven long-term care facilities on May 26. The teams will conduct tests at nine facilities today.
- SEOC staff are working with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, several volunteer agencies and Community Emergency Response Teams on food safety and non-congregate housing issues.
- SEOC staff are working with Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division (DPS-SFM) fire code officials to clarify occupancy issues for business partners. Fact sheets are developed and distributed to salons, retailers and other business about barriers for customers, social distancing and other issues businesses face as they prepare to reopen. DPS-SFM also added a staff member to the state hotline to field questions about fire code and occupancy.
- The SEOC continues supporting the state hotline, which received 75 calls on Tuesday. 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.

## **3 percent decrease in 911 calls from year-to-year**

Call volumes for Minnesota public safety answering points (PSAPs), also known as 911 dispatch centers, saw a 3 percent year-to-year decrease last week, according to statistics provided by CenturyLink to the Department of Public Safety division of Emergency Communication Networks. However, call volumes are up 12 percent from two weeks ago.

- Minnesota PSAPs answered 56,448 calls May 17-23 this year vs. 58,425 calls during that same comparable week (May 19-25) in 2019.

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## Traffic volumes statewide remain below average

The Minnesota Department of Transportation continues to monitor [traffic volumes](#).

- Twin Cities metro area: Traffic volumes on Tuesday, May 26 were down 19 percent compared to Tuesday averages for May (2016-2019).
- Statewide: Traffic volumes on Tuesday, May 26, were down 11 percent compared to Tuesday averages for May (2016-2019).

## Red Cross in Minnesota: Urgent need for blood donors

- COVID-19 has made an unprecedented impact to the collection of blood and platelet donations. Blood drives are being canceled and added daily across our region and the country.
- The Red Cross has an urgent need for blood donations to prevent another blood shortage as hospitals resume surgical procedures and patient treatments that were temporarily paused earlier this spring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In recent weeks, hospital demand for blood products has grown by 30 percent after sharply declining in early April amid this rapidly changing and complex public health crisis.
- Healthy individuals are needed to make and keep scheduled appointments to help meet the current need. Find and schedule appointments in the days and weeks ahead at [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org).

## 33 more COVID-19 deaths matches record single-day high

- 932 reported deaths — an increase of 33 since May 26; 27 of the 33 deaths were people in long-term care facilities.
- 22,464 lab-confirmed cases in Minnesota — an increase of 510 cases since May 26.
- 598 patients are currently hospitalized (up 28 from May 26) with 260 in intensive care units (ICU). The number of ICU patients is up two from May 26.
- 16,314 patients have been released from isolation.
- Learn more about the latest lab-diagnosed cases on the [COVID-19 public dashboard](#).