May 9, 2020

*Below is an update on the COVID-19 pandemic as it pertains to Minnesota as of 7:00 PM on 5/9/2020.*

### Updates from the Governor

#### Week in Review

**On Monday, May 4** Governor Walz signed an order that will exempt federal, tribal, state, and local COVID-19 relief funds from being automatically intercepted by creditors and debt collectors. The Governor also discussed how his administration is engaging with Minnesotans across industries, organizations, and communities to safely get Minnesotans back to work. To learn more about our strategy, and the work we’re doing together, explore our [engagement page](#) on the COVID-19 website.

**On Tuesday, May 5** Governor Walz signed an Executive Order that provided a roadmap for safely restarting elective veterinary, medical, and dental procedures. Also, the Governor and the State of Minnesota’s Chief Financial Officer Myron Frans announced a projected $2.4 billion deficit through 2021.

**On Wednesday, May 6** Governor Walz and Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm thanked nurses on the front lines during this pandemic, and highlighted the work nurses are doing to keep Minnesotans healthy. The Minnesota National Guard conducted statewide flyovers in recognition of those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issued guidance to stay close to home during the season fisher opener.

**On Thursday, May 7** Governor Walz unveiled a [five-point plan](#) to provide support to our state’s long-term care facilities and protect Minnesota seniors and their caregivers. The Governor and Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm worked closely together to develop the plan, which aims to bolster the significant work that is taking place already within facilities and our public health sector.

**On Friday, May 8** Governor Walz called on the Legislature [called on the Legislature](#) to extend and replenish a Minnesota fund used to keep Minnesotans safe amid COVID-19. Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan highlighted the work of the Administration’s Community Resiliency and Recovery Work Group, which studies and takes action to protect the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities in Minnesota.

### Everyone can work to reduce the spread of COVID-19

- **Cover your coughs and sneezes** with your elbow or sleeve, or a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands afterwards.
- **Washing your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds**, especially after going to the bathroom or before eating. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
• **Avoid touching your face** – especially your eyes, nose and mouth – with unwashed hands.

• **Stay home if you have cold- or flu-like symptoms**, for seven days after your illness onset and three days after your fever resolves without fever reducing medicine (whichever is longer), and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

• Up-to-date guidance from the Department of Health on recommended community mitigation strategies can be found [here](#).