

Minnesota State Orders – Updated August 20

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: expired May 18

Restaurants: Bars and restaurants were able to reopen outdoor seating on June 1. Guidelines for opening can be found [here](#).

August 20: Numbers released on August 19 by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) indicate 17 people died from the virus during the last 24-hour reporting period. That's the most since June 19, when the number of fatalities was also 17. The deaths reported Wednesday push Minnesota's total to 1,738. Of those fatalities 1,295, or 75%, occurred in long-term care or assisted living settings. MDH says 567 new cases of coronavirus were confirmed based on 34,879 tests processed in private and state labs. That number of tests is nearly double the previous single day high, and MDH spokesman Doug Schultz has an explanation. He says Wednesday's testing data includes a backlog of more than 25,000 tests that were loaded into the system, the vast majority of which were negative tests MDH received from a number of labs going as far back as April ([source](#)).

August 18: Minnesota's second COVID-19 pandemic wave is showing signs of leveling off, with 359 lab-confirmed infections reported August 18 with the novel coronavirus that causes the infectious disease. While daily numbers reported on Tuesdays have typically been lower, reflecting reduced testing and diagnostic activity on weekends, that is one of the lowest numbers in weeks. The average daily case count had been more than 700 in late July and early August, but has now dropped below that mark. The state also reported nine COVID-19 deaths on Tuesday and 304 hospitalizations — an increase of 18 from Monday. That included 154 people in intensive care due to breathing problems or other complications from their infections ([source](#)).

August 13: There are currently 62,303 cases confirmed (470 new) via 1,188,288 tests, 1,678 deaths (12 new), 5,711 cases requiring hospitalization (335 people remain hospitalized), 154 in intensive care and 55,855 patients no longer needing isolation ([source](#)).

The peacetime emergency that Gov. Tim Walz has used to manage Minnesota's coronavirus response will last at least another 30 days. In a unanimous vote Wednesday, the state Executive Council extended his authority. It gives the Walz administration power to spend money and issue directives without running them past the Legislature first ([source](#)).

On Aug. 10, state health officials gave more details about upcoming [relaxed visitation policies in long-term care facilities](#). According to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), new guidance will take effect Aug. 29 allowing facilities to decide on the most "appropriate" visitation policy for their residents and staff. MDH cited a desire to balance COVID-19 prevention with the well-being of residents who have been isolated during the pandemic ([source](#)).

In the last 24 hours, Minnesota added 332 more cases of COVID-19 to its tally of infections and six more deaths. The additional cases bring the state's total positive cases to 61,839, with 55,151 no longer needing isolation. In hospitals, 337 people currently need treatment, with 29 more non-ICU hospitalizations since Monday. More than 5,661 have needed hospitalization since the pandemic began. The state's death toll is now 1,666 ([source](#)).

Minnesota was awarded \$5.6 million to public housing from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help keep residents housed. According to a release, Secretary Ben Carson

announced \$472 million nationally in CARES Act funding to help low-income families during the coronavirus pandemic. Of that \$472 million, \$5.6 million will be award to 60 Minnesota public housing authorities ([source](#)).

August 6: MDH Commissioner Jan Malcolm said the testing positivity rate in Minnesota is now 5.2%, which is an increase from 4.9% last week. The gap between the growth of testing and positivity is narrowing, Malcolm said. Malcolm highlighted the importance of continuing vaccinations for other diseases as the fall approaches ([source](#)).

Health Department numbers on August 5 show daily deaths remain in the single digits, with the number of people currently hospitalized dipping after trending up for weeks.

Still, those current hospitalizations (305) stayed above 300 for the sixth straight day and ICU cases (152) remain up compared to a month ago. While current hospitalizations remain far lower than their late-May peak, they've shown an upward swing the past few weeks even as the daily growth in new cases flattened ([source](#)).

August 4: Minnesota's COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to head the wrong way, with counts of people currently hospitalized and needing intensive care rising to levels not seen in six weeks. On August 4, the Health Department reported 328 Minnesotans still hospitalized with 159 of those needing an ICU bed ([source](#)).

On July 29, [Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said](#) the city will again pull back indoor service at bars and bar areas effective Aug. 1 to try and check the accelerating spread of the disease. Restaurants can still operate indoor food service and wait staff can bring alcoholic drinks to tables, but indoor bar areas within restaurants, entertainment venues, taprooms and nightclubs must convert that space to seating or otherwise close off their physical indoor bar spaces ([source](#)).

More than 150 people have been newly admitted to Minnesota hospitals for COVID-19 over the last three days, the busiest stretch of inpatient hospital activity since early June. On July 29, the Minnesota Department of Health reported 310 people were hospitalized with COVID-19, a net increase of 16 from July 28. Among hospitalized patients, 143 needed intensive care due to severe breathing or other complications from the infectious disease that is caused by a novel coronavirus ([source](#)).

July 28: So far, hospitalizations have increased only slightly from a low this month of 231 on July 10 to 257 on July 27. The hospitalization total on Monday included 126 people with COVID-19 in intensive care, though, the highest such number since July 5. That ICU number had been trending downward for much of July amid improved airway management and other care techniques for patients with COVID-19, along with new drug therapies ([source](#)).

July 23: Gov. Tim Walz has issued an executive order mandating mask use for indoor public spaces. The mandate will take effect early Saturday (July 25) morning, and requires Minnesotans to wear masks in public indoor gathering areas like stores and restaurants, as well as while using public transportation.

Exemptions are in place for people with medical or mental health conditions that make it "unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering" ([source](#)).

Minneapolis is one of 11 cities identified by the White House Coronavirus Task Force that require "aggressive" steps to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak, according to a report on Wednesday, July 22. [The Center for Public Integrity reports](#) that the warning came in a private call from Dr. Deborah Birx, who leads the task force, to state and local leaders on Wednesday, which was the result of the 11 cities seeing increases in the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests, with others including Baltimore, Indianapolis, Miami and New Orleans ([source](#)).

Another 763 COVID-19 cases and 9 deaths were reported July 23 in Minnesota, where a new mask-wearing mandate could take at least three weeks to show any change in the course of the pandemic. The Minnesota Department of Health has in all reported 48,721 lab-confirmed infections with the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, and 1,561 deaths ([source](#)).

On July 21, the state Health Department reported three more deaths from COVID-19 along with a significant rise in the number of people currently hospitalized. Tuesday's data showed a change in pattern from the past few weeks as current hospitalizations (266) jumped, although those needing intensive (112) care dipped slightly from Monday. The number of people in the hospital but not needing intensive care (154) is the highest in about a month ([source](#)).

Minnesota cities currently requiring face masks include Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Edina, Excelsior, Mankato, Minnetonka, Rochester, Shoreview, St. Cloud, White Bear Lake and Winona ([source](#)).

July 15: Minnesota health officials expressed concern about the state's rising COVID-19 positivity rate on Wednesday, July 15. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) calculates the seven-day average test positivity rate, or percentage of COVID-19 tests coming back positive, every day. On Wednesday it was 4.8%, up from 4.7% the day before, and up from 4.4% a week ago. MDH has said previously that it will be concerning if the rate goes to 5% for more than five days in a row ([source](#)).

Here is a [list](#) of places in Minnesota where face coverings are required as of July 15 ([source](#)).

As of July 13, people who live in group homes and other congregate care facilities were once again allowed to attend day service programs. Many of those programs were closed for months due to the coronavirus pandemic ([source](#)).

The Minnesota Zoo is set to welcome back visitors on Friday, July 24 with limited attendance and new safety guidelines ([source](#)).

On July 13, Gov. Walz signed an executive order again extending the peacetime emergency Minnesota has been under since mid-March due to coronavirus ([source](#)).

July 6: In Minneapolis and Edina, face masks are required inside businesses and indoor facilities. In St. Paul, face masks are required inside city buildings and buildings licensed by the city. In Blaine, face

masks are required in government buildings. On July 6, Rochester and Mankato city councils approved emergency orders requiring people to wear face masks in indoor public spaces ([source](#)).

June 30: As COVID-19 test processing capacity in Minnesota has [reached the 20,000 a day benchmark](#), daily deaths and hospitalizations continue to trend downward. On June 30, the Minnesota Department of Health said that in the last 24 hours, six people have died and the number of people in the hospitals with the disease fell by eight ([source](#)).

June 25: Transmission of the COVID-19 virus in bars, food plants and other locations has resulted in an erratic spread of the pandemic in Minnesota, where the addition on Thursday (June 25) of 365 lab-confirmed cases brought the total so far to 34,123 ([source](#)).

Residents of long-term care facilities can now visit with friends and family members outdoors, according to new Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. Under strict conditions, residents can now meet face-to-face with visitors at scheduled times ([source](#)).

Under [new guidance issued on June 19](#), the Minnesota Department of Health will allow outdoor youth and adult recreational sports leagues to resume in full starting June 24. Team practices, scrimmages and games between teams will all be allowed to start on June 24 for outdoor sports. For indoor leagues, the state says practices will be allowed to resume starting June 24, and games and scrimmages will be allowed to be played starting July 1 ([source](#)).

June 22: Four more Minnesotans have died of COVID-19, the Minnesota Department of Health said June 22 for a total of 1,384. That represents the lowest one-day death toll since April 13 ([source](#)).

June 18: Minnesota's coronavirus death toll and number of hospitalizations continued trending slightly downward June 17 as the Health Department reported 12 more people succumbing to the disease ([source](#)).

Minnesota state health officials received a long-awaited shipment of an experimental antiviral drug (remdesivir) used to treat COVID-19 patients June 16 that could benefit 180 to 325 patients ([source](#)).

Governor Walz and state leaders have recognized that a more consistent approach across industries and businesses in Minnesota was important – and that workers at Critical Businesses deserve the same clarity about their employers' plans to protect health and safety as those at non-Critical Sector businesses. To ensure that happens, [Executive Order 20-74](#) requires that by June 29, 2020, all businesses – including Critical Businesses – fully adopt and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan ([source](#)).

June 10: Gov. Tim Walz is planning to extend the state's COVID-19 peacetime emergency for an additional 30 days, and will call the Minnesota Legislature into a special session starting at noon on Friday, June 12 ([source](#)).

The Mall of America was back in business on June 10, nearly three months after the [Minnesota](#) tourist attraction shut down because of the [coronavirus](#). About 150 of the 500 stores in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington reopened their doors to a new shopping experience that included signs encouraging social distancing, reduced seating, touchless hand sanitizer stations and plexiglass dividers at checkout areas ([source](#)).

June 8: MDH released [new guidance on youth and adult sports over the weekend](#). The guidance takes into account the amount of contact involved in a given sport as well as shared equipment and other factors, dividing sports into low, medium and high-risk ([source](#)).

On June 5, Gov. Walz announced the third phase of reopening the state, which includes the option for restaurants to reopen dining rooms with reservations, at a diminished capacity beginning Wednesday June 10 ([source](#)).

On June 5, Gov. Walz also announced that indoor restaurants, swimming pools, movie theaters, fitness clubs and other venues can resume limited business June 10 as he continues to dial back restrictions designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 ([source](#)).

June 3: Farmers and ranchers in Minnesota can now apply for financial assistance through USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program ([source](#)).

May 23: Changing directions with regard to when places of worship can reopen amid the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Tim Walz announced that starting Wednesday, May 27, churches that follow social distancing guidelines will be able to hold services as long as the gatherings don't exceed 25 percent of a building's capacity ([source](#)).

On May 20, Gov. Tim Walz unveiled plans to let bars and restaurants serve sit-down customers beginning June 1 — but only at outdoor tables ([source](#)).

On May 13, Gov. Walz announced that he will allow stores to reopen and let Minnesotans leave the house more, while leaving in place for now restrictions for bars, restaurants, theaters, hair salons and other businesses where people must be in close contact ([source](#)).

Gov. Walz has signed Executive Order 20-40 that adds to the Stay at Home exemption list "workers in non-customer facing industrial and office-based businesses who cannot work from home" ([source](#)).

Minnesota restaurants will be able to sell beer and wine with to-go orders during the coronavirus closures under an agreement expected to get final approval in the Legislature on April 17 ([source](#)).
