

Executive Order 20-96 Talking Points

11/10/2020

- COVID-19 is spreading rapidly across Minnesota. Almost every day, we're hitting new records of case growth and hospitalizations. These numbers signal that we are losing control of the virus.
- Community spread is at an all-time high. More people are getting sick, including our health care workers, which is impacting our hospitals' ability to provide care. These factors—many out of our control—have caused hospital bed capacity to hover above 95 percent in many areas.
- We must get the spread of the virus under control so that we can care for those who fall ill, get our kids in the classroom, keep our businesses open, and get back to the activities we love.

What we know about high-risk settings

- Social settings which attract a younger crowd are the most significant sources of COVID-19 spread in the state. In fact, over 70 percent of COVID-19 outbreaks in our state from June to November have a direct link back to weddings, private social gatherings, and late nights at bars and restaurants. The data suggests these environments become riskier the later it gets.
- What makes it risky?
 - Gatherings of friends and loved ones of all ages, including those at higher risk of severe illness, who are comfortable with each other and live in different households.
 - Eating and drinking without face coverings over extended periods of time.
 - Loud settings that increase respiratory droplets in the air as people talk, laugh, or sing.
 - Get-togethers that involve alcohol, which lower inhibitions and interfere with social distancing, especially as the night wears on.

Overall approach

- These are difficult decisions. Most young people are taking great precautions to protect themselves and their community. Most bars and restaurants have done a great job responding to the pandemic and keeping their customers and employees safe.
- But this virus is spreading like wildfire, and every gathering place is now more dangerous than it was a month ago. People without symptoms or who don't know they have COVID-19 can still spread the

disease. Because of wide-spread community transmission, wherever we go, chances are we may come into contact with someone who has COVID-19.

- The Governor knows that we cannot regulate away all the risks of this virus spreading. We are focused on protecting not only the health and safety, but also the quality of life, mental health, and wellbeing of Minnesotans.
- Our decisions announced today take strong steps to target the riskiest spaces for COVID-19 to spread, according to the best data we have available to us.

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We are taking targeted steps that are driven by data.

- First, we are tightening our restrictions on private social gatherings.
 - Social gatherings in private homes will be limited to **10 indoors; 10 outdoors and may involve no more than three households.**
- Second, private parties, private celebrations, and receptions for weddings, funerals, and similar events hosted at venues will also have capacity limits. We know that some events have already been planned, so we hope our phased approach gives Minnesotans the time they need to adjust their events.
 - Effective November 13, these celebrations **must end at 10 p.m. and remain closed until 4 a.m.** if they serve or permit consumption of food or beverages.
 - Celebration events at venues, including receptions for weddings and funerals, birthday parties, reunions, anniversary celebrations, and private parties will be limited to:
 - **50 total participants** on November 27; and
 - **25 total** on December 11.
 - Dancing is strongly discouraged in guidance.
 - Celebrations that take place in a reserved room or exclusive space in a restaurant must comply with this guidance and limit patron numbers accordingly and observe closure time periods.
 - There will be no change to wedding, funeral, and religious services—just the related celebrations and receptions. People are much more likely to be masked, socially distanced, and seated for the service while the reception often includes less masking, less social distancing, and less seating.
- Third, we are making some changes to the operations of bars and restaurants in Minnesota.
 - Effective this Friday, **total restaurant capacity will be capped at 150 people, including both inside and outside settings**, and it may not exceed 50 percent of the establishment's total capacity. Table size remains at 10.
 - Bar counter service for all establishments will be closed for seating and service.

- If the establishment uses a “counter-service only” model for ordering food and beverages, it must create a social distance queuing model.
- Patrons must remain seated; no bar games such as darts and pool. If the establishment offers pull tabs, it must be offered in a queue that is marked and socially distanced.
- And, all bars and restaurants must **end dine-in service between 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.**
 - The 10 p.m.-4 a.m. closure requirements apply to food service and cafes/restaurants on college and university campuses.
- Recreational entertainment venues (like movie theaters, bowling alleys, or similar settings), must cease food and beverage services and must not permit food and beverages to be consumed on-site between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m.

Guidance updates - EO 20-96 issued Nov. 10, 2020

Other guidance affected will be updated in the coming week.

- [Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Restaurants and Bars \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safedining.pdf)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safedining.pdf>)
- [Industry Guidance for Gyms and Fitness Centers \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safegym.pdf)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safegym.pdf>)
- [Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Faith-Based Communities, Places of Worship, Weddings, and Funerals \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safefaitth.pdf)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safefaitth.pdf>)
- [Gathering Requirements for Celebrations and Life Events \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safeevents.pdf)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safeevents.pdf>)
- [Campus Dining Services Guidance for Higher Education Institutions \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/ihedining.pdf)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/ihedining.pdf>)
- [Guidance for Gatherings: Faith-based Communities, Places of Worship, and Ceremonies \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/guidefaith.pdf)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/guidefaith.pdf>)
- [Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening Recreational Entertainment Venues - English \(PDF\)](http://dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_guidelines_recreational_entertainment.pdf)
(http://dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_guidelines_recreational_entertainment.pdf)
- [Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening Seated Entertainment and Meeting Venues - English \(PDF\)](http://dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_guidelines_seated_entertainment.pdf)
(http://dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_guidelines_seated_entertainment.pdf)



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