Gathering Requirements for Celebrations and Significant Life Events

12/16/2020

At this time, in accordance with Executive Order 20-103 (EO), activities are limited for three weeks, from Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, 11:59 p.m. through Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

Executive Order 20-103

EO requirements

The full executive order (EO) with all requirements can be found at Executive Orders from Governor Walz (https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp).

- **Social gatherings limited.** Social gatherings are groups of people who are not members of the same household, congregated together for a common or coordinated social, community, or leisure purpose—even if social distancing can be maintained. This limitation includes planned and spontaneous gatherings as well as public and private gatherings. Most commercial activities are not considered social gatherings, so this change will not impact most industries.
  - Indoor social gatherings involving more than two households, or more than 10 people in total, are prohibited. Indoor social gatherings involving two households or less, and no more than 10 people total, are allowed as long as people from different households maintain at least 6 feet of separation from each other.
  - Outdoor social gatherings involving more than three households, or more than 15 people in total, are prohibited. Outdoor social gatherings involving three households or less, and no more than 15 people total, are allowed as long as people from different households maintain at least 6 feet of separation from each other and take additional precautions.

- **Business and activities are affected differently.** For a full listing of all business and activity requirements and limitations, see the full executive order at Executive Orders from Governor Walz (https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp). Many, but not all, businesses will have to pause in-person activities for the next three weeks. Please review the guidance below for industry-specific requirements.
Masks and face coverings required. Executive Order 20-81, requiring face coverings in certain settings, remains in full force and effect.

People at higher risk. All people currently living within the State of Minnesota who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, as defined by Executive Order 20-55, are strongly urged to stay at home or in their place of residence and follow the provisions of Executive Order 20-55.

Work from home. All people who can work from home must continue to do so.

EO requirements for COVID-19 gathering requirements for celebrations and significant life events

For the three weeks, all celebrations, events, activities and other social gatherings, including but not limited to private parties, wedding and funeral receptions, celebrations of life milestones (such as birthdays and retirements), family reunions, and gatherings before or after planned religious services are not allowed.

Planned services or ceremonies in faith-based communities, places of worship, funeral homes and other venues that offer space for wedding, funeral and planned services such as worship, rituals, prayer meetings, or scripture studies will be able to continue to offer space for these services and ceremonies, provided these venues develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that incorporates the Preparedness Plan Requirements for Faith-Based Communities, Places of Worship, Weddings, and Funerals (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safefaith.pdf).

While planned services and ceremonies for weddings, funerals, and planned services such as worship, rituals, prayer meetings, or scripture studies may occur during this four-week period, any time people gather they risk exposure to COVID-19. Virtual services are strongly recommended and in-person services are advised to include the smallest number of people possible.