

Gathering Requirements for Celebrations and Significant Life Events

11/18/2020

At this time, in accordance with Executive Order 20-99 (EO), activities are dialed back and not allowed for four weeks, from Friday, Nov. 20, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. through Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.

Executive Order 20-99

Why are we dialing back on certain activities for four weeks?

Throughout the month of November, the data has made clear with each passing day that we need to take decisive and aggressive action to contain the most recent phase of the pandemic. Minnesota recently topped 200,000 total confirmed COVID-19 cases. It took Minnesota more than 6 months to record 100,000 COVID-19 cases, but only 42 days to add an additional 100,000 new cases. We averaged a state record of almost 6,000 cases per day over the previous week, breaking single-day records for COVID-19 deaths (58) on Nov. 11 and new cases (8,689) on Nov. 14. The Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) most recent weekly COVID-19 report found that the current average rates of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions, and deaths are the highest they have been since the start of the pandemic, far exceeding the numbers we saw in the worst points of our surges in April and May. We need strong action to control our future case numbers.

EO requirements

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

- ✓ **Social gatherings prohibited.** 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 prohibition 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.

- ✓ **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 \(https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp\)](https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp). Many, but not all, businesses will have to pause in-person activities for the next four 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 four 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 \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safefait.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safefait.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.



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