

Guidance for Vehicle Gatherings, Parades, and Drive-ins

UPDATED 11/18/2020

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 a 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.
- **Businesses 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: Guidance for Vehicle Gatherings, Parades and Drive-ins

- Each vehicle may be occupied only by members of the same household.
- Concessions are suspended at this time.
- If vehicle windows are open, masks must be worn by the people in the vehicle.
- Attendees must remain in their vehicles unless they need to use a restroom. Masks must be worn when outside the vehicle.

Holding car gatherings for events is one way to participate and show support to each other and still avoid close contact with others. Car gatherings are events and activities primarily held in vehicles, such as parking lot gatherings, vehicle parades, and drive-ins. This guidance is for organizers of vehicle gatherings to use when planning a vehicle event. Organizers should consider what accommodations can be made to ensure equitable participation (e.g., people without access to a vehicle).

Requirements

- ✓ **Preparedness Plan:** All businesses, organizations, and venues where gatherings take place are required to develop and implement an event specific COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in accordance with the guidance below, and other applicable guidance on the [Stay Safe Minnesota website \(staysafe.mn.gov\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov). This plan must be displayed prominently, so any persons on the premises can easily see this document. Vendors servicing one event may collectively agree to one comprehensive plan, if they so choose.
- ✓ **Masks and face coverings:** As of July 25, 2020, people in Minnesota are required to wear a face covering in all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces, per Executive Order 20-81. Additionally, the Executive Order requires workers to wear a face covering when working outdoors in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained. The Executive Order includes exemptions for people who are unable to wear or tolerate a face covering due to medical or mental health conditions or other reasons. There are also situations in which a face covering may be temporarily removed, such as when eating or drinking, provided that social distancing is maintained between members of different parties. Businesses and venues may choose to have more protective requirements than those in the Executive Order.

For more information about the Executive Order and face covering requirements, see [Masks and Face Coverings \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html#masks\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html#masks).

Managing the event

- Create a traffic flow plan for how vehicles enter and exit the event.
- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between vehicles with open windows.
- Provide symptom screening for anyone working at the event.
- Post signage outlining established protocols at the venue entrance, near restrooms, and in areas where people may be standing in line.
- Provide controlled flow of participants as much as possible, including upon start and at end of the event.
- Bands are allowed but not recommended at this time. Performers must maintain social distancing, even during performance.
- See also: [Guidance for Music Activities and Performances \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/musicguide.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/musicguide.pdf)
- Limit the number of speakers and make arrangements so that they maintain distance from others. Whenever possible, provide individual microphones for multiple speakers. If a microphone must be shared, consider cleaning between speakers or leaving it untouched on a stand.

Restrooms

- Face coverings are required in restrooms.
- Mark areas where people may need to line up to ensure social distancing.
- Provide an ample supply of hand sanitizer or soap and water.
- Clean facilities regularly following the cleaning and disinfection protocol.
- Ensure your maximum number of guests allowed in the restroom will meet current capacity/size guidelines for social distancing.
- Turn off electric hand dryers and rely on touchless paper towel dispensers.

Recommendations

- Consider providing screening for participants. Send communication *prior* to the event to inform staff and participants that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, etc.) is not advised to attend. See the [Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf).
- Discourage those who are “high risk” from attending. Consider offering a virtual option.
- Avoid excessive vehicle idling and exposure to exhaust fumes.

Ceremonies

- Avoid passing of objects or physical contact between persons in different vehicles.

- If objects are passed from event organizers to car attendees, utilize a long arm claw or other mechanism to maintain adequate distance between organizers and attendees.

Summary

We all have a role to play in protecting ourselves and fellow Minnesotans from COVID-19. By following current [Executive Orders from Governor Walz \(mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp\)](https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp) and guidelines at [Stay Safe Minnesota \(staysafe.mn.gov\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov), we can enjoy activities and events while supporting public health, slowing the spread of COVID-19, and minimizing added strain on local communities and health care systems in Minnesota.



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