NAMI Minnesota is working very hard to provide you with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the steps being taken by local, state, and federal governments to maintain services and ensure safety. If you experience any problems accessing necessary mental health services, or are experiencing new barriers, due to COVID-19, please contact advocacy@namimn.org.

Department of Health

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. This is a new virus and there is still much that experts are still learning. Here are the facts from the Minnesota Department of Health you need to know right now:

Symptoms: People diagnosed with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illnesses with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath

If you have any of these symptoms, it is very important for you to stay home during your illness unless you are seeking medical care. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus, so it is very important to exercise caution even if you don’t feel sick.

Protect Yourself: The good news is that we have the tools to limit the spread of COVID-19. Here are the best ways to protect yourself, your family, and your community:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough with your elbow or a handkerchief
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should you do if you have symptoms? If you have the symptoms of COVID-19 and you can manage them at home, then you don’t have to seek health care or get tested for the virus. Resources are limited, so only the people who urgently need treatment should seek additional medical care. If you are older or have an underlying medical condition, it may be helpful to notify your doctor for medical advice.

If you need more information, you can get answers to your health questions (7AM to 7 PM) at 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903.

This information has been translated by the Department of Health into Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The Department of Health has also developed and translated guidance to find low cost health care and/or insurance. Click here for the translated materials.

The Department of Health is the state agency in charge of the COVID-19 response. They will also have the most up-to-date information and guidance here in Minnesota. In addition to the general information we have already shared, there is also specific guidance for:

- Health Professionals
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Providers
- First Responders and Law Enforcement

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NAMI Minnesota encourages our supporters to take advantage of this information to make informed decisions and prevent the spread of COVID-19. NAMI Members are encouraged to work from home if possible, and to exercise caution when entering the public whenever it is necessary.

Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services has also released information and guidance that will impact NAMI Minnesota members and supporters. Key updates include:

- **Guidance for child care providers**, including a hotline operational from 7AM to 7PM at 1-888-234-1268
- **Direct Care and Treatment**: Starting on March 13th, visits and outings have been cancelled for people staying in a state-operated treatment program.

The Department of Human Services is also working actively to address eligibility issues for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare, as well as any changes at the Federal Level. To find the most up-to-date information for providers, counties, tribes and members of the public including FAQ, visit the DHS COVID-19 webpage. As changes evolve at federal and state levels, we will update this page with the latest information.

DHS has also recommended visiting their programs and services page if you need food assistance. You can also visit the Minnesota Housing website for assistance with housing.

Department of Employment and Economic Development

Information for Employers from DEED and the Department of Health

For people who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut because of COVID-19:

DEED’s Unemployment Insurance (UI) program assists workers who can’t work, have their hours reduced or lose their jobs as a result of the pandemic. You should apply for benefits by visiting www.uimn.org if:

- Your employer has reduced your hours or shut down operations due to COVID-19
- You’re unable to work due to being sick with COVID-19 or having been exposed to COVID-19
- You’re unable to work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19
- You had to quit your job due to a lack of child care or you made reasonable efforts to find alternative child care and you requested time off/other accommodations from your employer, but your employer denied those requests

You may also be eligible for workers compensation if you become sick on the job and you have the right to other protections to care for yourself and your family. See more information on the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry’s Worker Protections page.

The website is the most efficient way to serve applicants and can accept applications Monday – Friday 6am – 8pm DEED is working to add Sunday hours. Applications are available in Español, Hmoob and Somali. Given the volume of expected applications, applications may take longer than usual to review and process. If you do need to talk to a someone you can call a Customer Service representative Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm:

- Twin Cities area: 651-296-3644
- Greater Minnesota: 1-877-898-9090;
- TTY for the hearing impaired: 1-866-814-1252

DEED has also a list of Community services and financial assistance for unemployed people.

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MNsure

Insurance Options for Minnesotans Experiencing a Change in Income or Employment:

Here are a few reminders about coverage through MNsure that are applicable to the COVID-19 peacetime emergency.

Minnesotans with private health insurance through MNsure:

- If your income has decreased because of a reduction in your hours or a job loss, it may make you eligible for advanced premium tax credits (APTC) and cost-sharing reductions (CSR). When you report the change in income, your eligibility for APTC and CSR will be redetermined.
  - If this change makes you newly eligible for APTC or CSR, you may qualify to change plans in a special enrollment period. Go to our website for more information or call our Contact Center.
  - If you currently receive APTC, you can make adjustments to the amount applied to your monthly premium.

- All four medical insurance companies that sell private health insurance plans on MNsure are waiving co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles related to COVID-19 diagnostic testing. You should contact your insurance company directly for questions about plan benefit details and how best to access care.

Any eligible Minnesotan who has lost health coverage from their employer (including because of a job loss) may qualify for a special enrollment period. Go to our website for a list of qualifying life events for more details on how to apply.

New Special Enrollment Period

MNsure has just announced a new special enrollment period in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting on March 23rd, any Minnesotan can apply for health insurance on MNsure for coverage starting on April 1, with a deadline of April 21st to get coverage under this special enrollment period.

Find a navigator or broker in your community.

Call the Contact Center at 651-539-2099 (855-366-7873 outside the Twin Cities). Hours:
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m

Online Support

Need help, but don't have time to call? We have an online help tool that is tailored to assist with our most common questions. You can find information about common technical issues, submitting an appeal, checking on the status of your enrollment, how to get help with a Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare case, and more.
Department of Corrections

Click here for updates for DOC Staff

Updates for inmates and families:

As of March 18th, DOC has not detected COVID-19 in any facility or DOC office. All in-person visiting has been suspended until further notice. To submit questions, please send an email to DOCCommunityinfo@state.mn.us.

Waiver of medical copays: All medical copays are waived until further notice. The agency is committed to ensuring that individual economic concerns do not limit an inmate’s willingness to seek medical care.

Phone Calls: The DOC has finalized plans to permit each person two free 5 minute phone calls each week. When you begin a call, you will be asked if you want to use one of your free calls. The call will automatically disconnect after 5 minutes. The two calls are available starting March 18th. We are still working with our video visiting vendor to implement free video visiting while in-person visiting is suspended.

Programming: Because the DOC has to consider a many months long process, they are planning to keep facility programming and other activity operational for as long as possible. They are working on how to do this in a way that keeps residents safe while allowing to avoid any sort of lockdown simply for health reasons. This planning includes: Work assignments, Education, MINNCOR, Flag time, Industry, and Recreation.

Other updates from a March 18th memo to inmates:

Employee Screening: Every person entering any DOC facility is subject to mandatory screening for existing symptoms and recent travel. Those who are experiencing certain symptoms identified by health experts are required to go home. They cannot return until they are cleared by a doctor.

Hand washing and hand sanitizing stations: We are also installing new hand-washing stations at the entrances to each facility. Every person entering the facility is required to wash their hands immediately when they enter the facility. MINNCOR is rapidly producing new hand sanitizing stations to deploy at strategic points throughout facilities to avoid cross-contamination between separate units. These are being shipped today (March 18th). We have also begun distributing additional soap.

Protecting Medically High-Risk Inmates: We are identifying medically high-risk inmates and are planning for the possibility of reorganizing some living situations to better protect everyone from potential infection.

In-Facility Procedures When Inmate Develops Symptoms: We have updated existing plans for what to do if an inmate develops symptoms of infectious diseases to make sure the plans are effective for handling COVID-19. We have procedures to make sure a person is appropriately medically isolated and to make sure anyone else that person has had close contact with is also appropriately quarantined in a non-punitive way. Procedures for responding to COVID-19 are similar to handling other flu-like illnesses. So you might see health services attending to inmates in a way that looks related to COVID-19, but that might not be the case.

Preparing for Worst-Case Scenarios: We are coordinating with the Department of Health to prepare for how to provide critical levels of care both within and potentially outside the facilities should an inmate contract COVID-19 and have their condition deteriorate significantly.”

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The DOC also submitted an update to the legislature on March 16th reporting:

“The DOC is also in the process of setting up weekly calls with the following partners: Labor unions representing the wide variety of staff that work in our facilities, field services, and central office, Jail administrators, Juvenile detention centers, Halfway houses, and County corrections. We are also in close contact with the Department of Public Safety, Minnesota Judicial Branch, and others as we figure out the various needs of the criminal justice system at this time.”

Ombudsperson for Department of Corrections

The new Office of Ombudsperson for the Department of Corrections has started a Facebook page to share ideas, best practices, and information about good correctional systems response. The posting of articles or other resources does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by Minnesota's Ombudsperson for Corrections.

Because the office was just recently created, Minnesota's Office of the Ombuds for Corrections only has one staff member working on establishing the office, so messages on this page may go unanswered. If you have a concern about the response of a Minnesota state or local correctional facility specific to Covid-19, email mnobfcccovid19@gmail.com.

Department of Human Rights

Information on mistreatment and discrimination due to COVID-19. To submit a complaint click here or call 651-539-1133. MDHR and the Department of Labor have a workers’ protection PDF, which includes info about employment discrimination with respect to COVID-19 and Viruses don't discriminate and neither should we.

Minnesota Judicial Branch

If you have a court case scheduled between March 16, 2020 and March 30, 2020 contact the district court to determine if your case will be heard or scheduled to a future date.

The Minnesota Judicial Branch is discouraging the public from making any non-essential visits to court facilities during the outbreak of COVID-19.

- All court facilities shall remain open. Service windows at court facilities will also remain open, and courts will continue to accept filings in all case types. The Judicial Branch discourages the public from making any non-essential visits to court facilities.
- All jury trials currently underway should continue until the trial is complete, regardless of case type.
- For case types designated “High Priority” or “Super High Priority” in the Limited Court Service Case Priorities List, all court proceedings should continue as normal. Courts will schedule new jury trials as needed in those case types. Wherever possible, courts should explore the use of ITV/remote technology to conduct these hearings. The order also eases restrictions on the use of these technologies currently in Court Rules.
- For case types designated “Medium Priority” or “Low Priority” in the Limited Court Service Case Priorities List, all court proceedings (except jury trials currently underway, or cases where a speedy trial has been demanded) will be suspended for 14 days. No new jury trials in these case types should be scheduled for the next 30 days.

This means that only a very small number of evictions will be considered by the courts. These are called "expedited evictions." The legal threshold for this form of eviction is if the tenant causes a nuisance or does something illegal; AND what they did seriously endangers the safety of other residents, their property, or the landlord’s property. Your landlord CANNOT evict you for things like paying late rent or not moving out on time. However, it is important to know that these protections will not last forever and you should still abide by the rules.

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of your lease and pay rent. If you’re having trouble paying rent or other bills, you can contact your county and apply for short-term emergency assistance.

In an effort to reduce foot-traffic in courthouses, the State Court Administrator has taken the following temporary administrative actions, effective Monday, March 16, 2020, for the next 30 days:

- The Judicial Branch will stop sending out late penalty notices and assessing the late penalties for all citations.
- For offenses eligible for drivers’ license suspension, the Judicial Branch will halt the automated process by which a person’s license is suspended for failure to appear.
- The Judicial Branch will stop referring past-due payment cases to the Department of Revenue for collections.
- The Minnesota State Law Library will close to the public, until further notice, effective Thursday, March 19, 2020

Department of Education

The Minnesota Department of Education is the place to look for up-to-date information about school closures. Information includes closure guidance for Minnesota schools, a message from Commissioner Ricker, a Q-A on school-closure, and the priority categories for emergency workers. All this information be found here and will be updated regularly. For Higher Ed questions, see the Coronavirus Updates page by Office of Higher Ed.

School and child care hotline: (7 am to 7 pm): 651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504

Children of health care or emergency workers – school districts are directed to provide care for your children age 12 and under. See list of emergency workers and full guidance to school districts here. NAMI Minnesota has received clarification from MDE that community-based mental health workers are eligible for this support.

The Department of Education has also issued guidance for special education students. Their website now includes answers to frequently asked questions, suggestions for distance learning, and other relevant resources for families of special education students. MDE has also issued guidance for school-district obligations for special education services during the COVID-19 outbreak.

County Jails

Star Tribune: State Public Defender pushes for release of jail inmates because of coronavirus

Pioneer Press: Coronavirus triggers changes at Ramsey County Correctional Facility; talks continue about which inmates should be released

Hennepin County: All in-person visits to the Hennepin County Adult and Juvenile Detention Centers are cancelled until further notice. The Hennepin County Attorney’s Office has announced that it is working with the Sheriff’s Department and the County Public Defenders to determine a list of potential individuals who would be eligible for a new bail hearing and will make arrangements for their release pending trial in appropriate cases.

NAMI is monitoring county jail visitation cancellations. This is our current list of jails that have cancelled in-person visitation and we will update it as new information is made available. You can contact the county jail to see if there are special provisions for video or phone visits.

- Hennepin
- Ramsey
- Dakota - Social visiting (family and friends) is cancelled at this time. We encourage you to contact your loved one by video (now $.25 per minute) or by email communication ($.25 per email). Please visit www.inmatecanteen.com to set up an account.

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Carver - Social visiting has been suspended starting March 16 through March 31.

Stearns - Changes to jail operations consist of the following:
  ○ Cancellation of all outside programming for jail inmates
  ○ Cancellation of all jail visiting hours for inmates
  ○ Initial health screening of all incoming arrests in jail garage prior to introducing anyone into the jail facility
  ○ The possibility of initial court hearings being heard via closed circuit television instead of appearing physically in court

Sherburne - Sherburne County Jail effective immediately is ending on-site video visits between inmates and outside visitors. We’re also suspending our fingerprinting services. Video visits can still be conducted remotely via our service agreement with Securustech.

Blue Earth - Effective March 16, 2020: All on-site visiting sessions have been suspended. Remote visiting is highly encouraged and available at a reduced rate per minute at www.inmatecanteen.com.

St. Louis - All visiting hours are suspended until further notice.

Pine - On-site Inmate Visitation is SUSPENDED until further notice.

Department of Commerce

The Commerce Department has issued this warning about travel insurance. You can contact the office at Commerce Dept. Consumer Services Center: 651-539-1600 or Complaints.

Attorney General

The Office of Attorney General has released the following information regarding COVID-19:

Report suspected scams to the Attorney General’s Office: If you believe you have been the victim of, or were targeted by, a COVID-19 scam, please contact the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office immediately. You can file a complaint online or by calling (651) 296-3353 (Metro) or (800) 657-3787 (Greater Minnesota).

Scams and how to avoid them:

Scam artists are exploiting public anxieties surrounding COVID-19 to victimize consumers. Emerging scams include:

  ● Setting up websites to sell bogus products, fake COVID-19 vaccines, and other unproven treatments,
  ● Using fake emails, texts, and social media posts to deceptively solicit “donations” for victims, and
  ● Imposter scams where scammers send malicious emails impersonating government agencies such as the CDC in hopes that you will click on a link, and thereby download malicious software that will give the scammer access to your personal or financial information.

Attorney General Ellison is providing Minnesotans with the following tips and resources for spotting and avoiding these emerging COVID-19 scams:

  ● Don’t click on links from unknown sources and ensure that your computer’s anti-virus software is fully updated.
  ● Get updated information directly from relevant governmental agencies like the CDC or Minnesota Department of Health. The Minnesota Department of Health also has a COVID-19 Hotline at: 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3902 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday).
  ● Ignore online offers for “miracle” health products, treatments, or vaccinations. There is currently no FDA-approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19.
  ● Do your research before donating to a non-profit or charity.

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Price-gouging: Attorney General Ellison’s Office is also concerned with reports that some retailers may be engaged in price-gouging practices by selling essential goods or services (such as food, health care related goods or services, and medical supplies) at unconscionable or excessively inflated prices as a result of COVID-19. The Attorney General strongly encourages consumers to report such practices immediately.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

Here is information and resources distributed by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for housing for Minnesota Families.

Home Mortgage & Home Improvement Programs

Minnesota Housing homeownership and home improvement programs are continuing normal business operations (including accepting new loan commitments), with some modifications described below.

The Partner Solutions Team (PST) will continue to offer support to our partners and consumers. While we will have phone support, it will be extremely limited. We encourage our partners to email us at mnhousing.solution@state.mn.us for faster service.

Consumers should continue to reach out to us at mn.housing@state.mn.us.

The Business Development Team will continue to work with partners via phone and email. We will not participate in any events, Real Estate Professional (REP) Sessions, trainings, or in-person events.

The training team is able to offer support to users who access our eLearning training modules or our regularly scheduled webinars (Monthly Underwriting Conference Call and Monthly Fix Up Check-in).

Resources and information on affected events and trainings:

- **Homeownership Lender Training**: note other options of webinars and eLearning modules if you need training
- **Home Improvement Lender Training**: note option of the Fix Up Monthly Check-in webinars
- **REP Sessions**: Contact Heidi Erickson to reschedule postponed sessions or for details on how to set up a session after it becomes safe to hold events.
- **Community Events**: As it becomes safe to participate in community events again, we will post opportunities for Partners to attend events with Minnesota Housing on our event calendar. You can also reach out to Henry Morimoto for more details.

Community Initiatives

Impact Fund or Single Family Request for Proposals questions should be directed to Impact.Fund.MHFA@state.mn.us or an Impact Fund staff member.

Rehabilitation Loan Program/Emergency & Accessibility Loan Program questions should be directed to **Tonya Taylor**.

HECAT and Homeownership Capacity program questions should be directed to **Que Vang**.

Portfolio Management & Quality Control

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Portfolio Management is still actively supporting our borrowers and lenders. Please email mnhousing.portfolio@state.mn.us with any questions.

Quality Control is still performing all of the same activities, and lenders should continue to email mnhousing.qc@state.mn.us.

**Department of Veterans Affairs**

Because of the vulnerability of the Veterans Homes’ population, effective 3/13/20, the five Minnesota Veterans Homes have adopted a Restricted Visitor Policy. The Restricted Visitor Policy includes the following:

- Restricting visitors except for those visiting Residents at end of life or when deemed medically necessary
- Using a single entrance for the facility
- Allowing essential volunteers and vendors only
- Requiring Visitors to complete a self-declaration screening at entrance
- Conducting evaluative screening and education at facility entrance by a Home Clinical staff member
- Providing MDVA Resident/Guest internet access to Residents to communicate with their families
- Postponing public events and entertainment
- Restricting activities to unit levels
- The Adult Day Center (Vets Club) located on the Minneapolis Veterans Home Campus will close starting Monday, March 16 to April 6. The reopen date is tentative and subject to change. Staff are being reassigned and clients and families have been notified.

**Metro Transit**

Representatives in Metro Transit’s Transit Information Center are available by phone at 612-373-3333 or by text at 612-444-1161 during the center’s normal business hours (6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends).

All service has been suspended between 11 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. until further notice.

Please continue to visit metrotransit.org/health and follow Metro Transit on Twitter and Facebook for future updates.

**Updates:**

Metro Transit is asking people who must take transit to do so for essential travel only. Reducing demand will make our service safer for those who depend on it, and for those who operate it.

Those who must take transit should use discretion, take action to prevent the spread of germs, and consider alternative transportation modes if concerned. When taking transit, riders are asked to practice social distancing and leave space between themselves and other passengers and the operator.

If there appears to be more than 10 passengers on a 40-foot bus, or 15 passengers on a 60-foot bus, please wait for the next trip when possible. If a light rail vehicle appears to have more than 15 people on a train car, please board a different train car or wait for the next train to arrive.

Additional service may be added to routes where customers have told us additional vehicles are needed to support social distancing guidelines.

Buses, trains and facilities are being regularly disinfected. Passengers should support these efforts by:

- Regularly and thoroughly washing hands
- Coughing/sneezing into a tissue or a sleeve
- Staying home when you feel sick

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While we are doing all we can to operate on schedule, riders should expect that service may be somewhat unpredictable, similar to days when there is severe winter weather. The most efficient way to track your trip as you use the system will be to use the Show My Bus feature (see below).

Comcast Update

Comcast Increases Access to and Speeds of Internet Essentials’ Low-Income Internet Service to Support Americans Through the Coronavirus Pandemic

1. Offering new customers 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service, which is normally available to all qualified low-income households for $9.95/month.
   - Send all new customers a free self-install kit that includes a cable modem with a Wi-Fi router. There will be no term contract or credit check and no shipping fee.
   - To sign up, applicants can simply visit www.internetessentials.com. The accessible website also includes the option to video chat with customer service agents in American Sign Language. There are also two dedicated phone numbers 1-855-846-8376 for English and 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish.

2. Increasing Internet speeds for the Internet Essentials service from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps for all new and existing customers, which will be the speed of the service going forward. To receive the increased Internet speeds, existing customers will not need to do anything. The new speeds will be rolled out nationally over the next few days.

HR 6201: Federal Legislation on COVID-19 Response

Here is a summary of HR 6201, federal legislation signed into law on Wednesday, March 18th.

Food and Nutrition

- $500 million to provide nutritious food to low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children who lose their jobs due to COVID-19
- $400 million to meet the increased demand at local food banks, with $100 million set aside to support the storage and transportation of food.
- Allows the Department of Agriculture to approve state plans to provide emergency food stamps to children who qualify for free or reduced lunch when the child's school has been closed for at least 5 consecutive days.
- $100 million for food assistance to U.S. territories.
- $250 million for a senior nutrition program to provide 25 million additional home-delivered and pre-packaged meals to low income seniors who are home-bond, have disabilities, have multiple chronic illnesses, or are caregivers for seniors who are home-bound.
- Work and work training requirements are suspended for low-income jobless workers on food stamps.

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• Allows states to request a waiver in order to have additional flexibility with food stamp benefits.

**Emergency Paid leave**

• In order to be eligible, the person must have been employed for 30 or more days before they were impacted by COVID-19, work for an employer with fewer than 500 employees, and meet one of these criteria
  • Worker has a COVID-19 Diagnosis
  • Worker is quarantined on recommendation of health care provider, employer, of government official to prevent spread of COVID-19
  • Worker is caring someone with COVID-19 or under quarantine
  • Worker is caring for child or another individual who is unable to care for themselves due to the COVID-19 related closure of a school, child-care facility, or other care program.
• This benefit will be available for up to three months where the employee had to take more than 14 days of leave from their work in response to COVID-19.
• Benefit will amount to two-thirds of an individuals average monthly earnings up to $4,000, and must be offset by any state or private paid-leave benefit the individual receives.
• SSI benefits do not count as income or resources for the purposes of this program.

**Unemployment Benefits**

• $1 billion for emergency grants to the states related to processing and paying unemployment insurance benefits.
• For states that experience an increase of 10% or more in its unemployment rate, the federal government will pay for 100% of the costs for extended benefits, which normally requires 50% funding from the states.

**Paid Sick Leave**

• All employers with fewer than 500 employees must allow workers to gradually accrue seven days of paid sick leave, as well as offer 14 days of of sick leave immediately following a public health emergency.
• Paid sick days cover staying home when a child's school is closed due to a public health emergency, when the employer is closed due to a public health emergency,
or if you or a family member is quarantined or isolated due to a public health emergency.

- Federal government will reimburse small businesses with 50 or fewer employees for the costs of providing the additional 14 days of sick leave.

**Health Insurance**

- Requires private health plans and Public Health Plans to cover COVID-19 testing without any cost-sharing by the enrollee.
- Federal government will pick up costs related to COVID-19 testing for people without health insurance.

**Housing and Urban Development**

HUD posted the following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and Technical Assistance (TA) materials on the HUD Exchange Disease Risks and Homelessness Page:

- CDC: Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- Questions to Assist CoCs and Public Health Authorities to Limit the Spread of Infectious Disease in Homeless Programs
- Specific Considerations for Public Health Authorities to Limit Infection Risk Among People Experiencing Homelessness
- Eligible ESG costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness

Families and individuals experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to infectious diseases due to lack of access to primary care, mobility, and poor health status from extended episodes of homelessness. HUD strongly encourages Continuums of Care (CoCs) to contact local public health departments, Healthcare for the Homeless agencies, and other local health partners to ensure the unique needs and opportunities related to the homeless service system are incorporated. CoCs can take steps now to develop preparedness and response plans to protect against infection.

HUD has instituted an immediate foreclosure and eviction moratorium for single family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages for the next 60 days. This does not apply to people who are renters.

**Information from Association of Minnesota Counties**

**Minnesota County Operations Updates/Announcements**

Counties are modifying operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following counties have declared emergencies or otherwise changed operations and we’re sharing those we’ve received to-date. We will continue to update this page regularly with information we receive from counties.

- [Anoka](#)
• Blue Earth
• Chisago
• Cook
• Crow Wing
• Dakota
• Goodhue
• Hennepin
• Houston
• Kandiyohi
• Koochiching
• Lac qui Parle
• Lake
• Le Sueur
• Lincoln
• Marshall
• McLeod
• Meeker
• Morrison
• Mower
• Nicollet
• Olmsted
• Otter Tail
• Pine
• Ramsey
• Renville
• Rice
• Rock
• Roseau
• Scott
• Sherburne
• Steele
• Traverse
• Wadena
• Waseca
• Washington
• Yellow Medicine