

Below is a summary of Gov. Noem's Friday press conference:

- Want to provide you with an update on the Smithfield Foods hotspot
  - o State's role is to manage issue and to provide resources
  - o State is currently deploying resources to the site
  - o We are monitoring everyone who goes in and out of the facility
  - o There are 190+ positive cases connected to the facility at this time
    - 6 of those cases have required hospitalization at some time
  - o We are dealing with a very diverse workforce with a number of different nationalities
    - Dept. of Health (DOH) is using interpreters to communicate with workers
    - Helping workers to understand CDC guidance for Covid
  - o DOH secretary will sign a public health emergency for Minnehaha County
- Asking all South Dakotans to social distance even though this is Easter weekend-a time for families to traditionally get together
- Asking all South Dakotans to download CARE 19 app to their phones
  - o Will keep track of user's movements so if the person tests positive, there will be a record of where they have been and who they may have interacted with
- Reporter ?: Were all Smithfield cases employees?
  - o Dr. Josh Clayton (DOH state epidemiologist) - we are looking at all who came in contact with every Smithfield worker who tested positive
- Reporter ?: Gov. has said earlier that a public health emergency would be applied on a case-by-case basis. What is different now?
  - o Gov. said that is exactly what she has said for weeks, and that state would use it when appropriate. We feel now is an appropriate time.
  - o DOH secretary Kim Malsom-Rysdon (KMR): We see this as a step toward prevention, allows state to issue a public health intervention order and seek judicial assistance with enforcement if individual(s) are non-compliant
  - o Gov. said state wants to be proactive and this a step towards prevention
- Reporter ?: Can KMR to into detail about what is included in a public health intervention?
  - o KMR: details what people should do to deal with disease; what needs to be done to keep an individual(s) and others safe
    - Typically don't need to seek public health intervention
    - Have used a public health intervention for an individual in Lyman County
- Reporter ?: Will warm weather mean a shorter duration for outbreak?
  - o Dr. Clayton (JC) – We don't know how the weather will impact the virus; some respiratory viruses typically decrease in the summer months
- Reporter ?: Of 190 cases at Smithfield, how many are employees and how many are family members?
  - o JC: Most of the 190 cases are Smithfield employees
    - It is unfortunate that Covid virus has impacted a SF employer
    - We are working to decrease spread within SF community
- Reporter ?: How is state working to isolate positive cases?
  - o JC: Process is that state is notified of a positive test result, result is then relayed to individual or an interpreter, we ask the individual to stay home, state investigates who the individual has been in contact with and ask those people to stay home for 14 days after exposure
- Reporter ?: are you asking the positive cases to stay away from their families while they are sick?

- JC: there is good guidance from the CDC about how to isolate from family members while the individual is at home
- State is working with interpreters to help affected people understand the guidance from the CDC
- Reporter ?: Gov. talked about a couple of possible hotspots earlier this week. Are there any other workplaces that may be considered hotspots?
  - Gov. said she is keeping an eye on the whole state
  - There is good news in Beadle County, which had been considered a hotspot initially, but that situation has stabilized
  - Gov. said she is very encouraged by the actions of most South Dakotans to date; from what Gov. was seeing a month ago, models projected that there would be many more cases than are currently being reported; SD is in a very good spot
  - Gov. said the people of South Dakota are doing the right thing
- Reporter ?: Are there any other specific hotspots in Sioux Falls?
  - Gov.: Not that we can identify at this time
- Reporter ?: Is a 3-day shut down at Smithfield appropriate?
  - Gov. said the state believes it is what is needed
    - Three days will allow Smithfield to take a variety of measures to clean, put mechanisms in place to protect worker safety
- Reporter ?: There are allegations that Smithfield may not have addressed the outbreak properly. Will there be any enforcement action taken against them?
  - Gov. said the concerns of the workers needs to be the top priority now
    - She said the media stories that have been reported in the past 24 hours have not told the full story; those stories are not researched thoroughly; reporters need to get both sides before printing story; would appreciate if media remembered that
  - JC: Have had ongoing calls with Smithfield management at the local and corporate level
    - State takes Smithfield issue very seriously
    - Working to make sure Smithfield has a safe workforce
    - State is taking concerns of workers very seriously
- Reporter ?: Media has gotten Smithfield press release but Smithfield has not talked to the media after issuing press release. What does Gov. know that she can tell us?
  - Gov.: This is good information
    - We have seen photos of what Smithfield has done to make adjustments to the interior of the plant; have seen some of the changes they are installed
  - Gov: This is a time when we need to have a good, factual and truthful conversation with all the people of South Dakota; it is time to put away any agendas that people may have; need to have the media tell all the facts
    - I will help media get all the facts
- Reporter ?: has the Gov's office talked to the meatpackers union?
  - Gov said there have been conversations with the union but not sure who has talked to them; will let you know who has been in contact
- Reporter ?: What followup is being done on the positive case connected to the Lane Café?
  - KMR: DOH did a press release to notify people who may have been in contact with worker from April 1-4; making sure the positive test case is quarantined