

- Gov. opened press conference by saying, “we can’t stop the virus, but we can slow it.”
  - o It is a marathon, not a sprint
  - o Gov. is very proud of how South Dakotans have complied with the direction and recommendations from state government
- Update on Smithfield Foods:
  - o In order to respond to this hot spot, it takes a targeted and intensive approach
    - As of today, 438 employees have tested positive
    - 107 individuals who had contact with positive employees also have tested positive
      - Those cases comprise roughly 70% of the cases in Minnehaha County
  - o When responding to a hot spot, state government uses the following points:
    - 1) asked Smithfield to pause operations until an appropriate time to re-open
    - 2) do intensive contact tracing
      - Interview everyone that has been within 6 feet of positive person
      - The state Dept. of Health has tripled the available staff to do contract tracing in past several weeks, and are planning to double that number by the end of this week
      - If someone with a positive test can’t be isolated at home from family for whatever reason, state Dept of Health will isolate that individual in a hotel with cost being borne by the state
    - 3) use public education
    - 4) use technology, especially Care 19 app for phones so that anyone who tests positive can have a record of travels and possible contacts
    - 5) in the case of Smithfield Foods, since they were a food processing plant, they were considered a critical infrastructure industry by the federal government, so any shelter in place order would not have impacted the Smithfield workforce; the plant would still have been open
- Sioux Falls mayor has asked Gov. for a shelter in place order
  - o Gov. said she will not issue that order at this time
    - She said the mayor has various tools at his disposal to use if he chooses to use them
  - o Mayor has also asked the Gov to open an isolation center (possibly at the SF Convention Center which could hold up to 7,000 people under the supervision of the SD National Guard)
    - Gov. said she is not planning to open such a center at this time
- Gov. said that sales tax receipts to the state are coming in significantly lower since start of outbreak; video lottery receipts are also down significantly; will mean a major adjustment to state budget, with the hope that federal \$\$s from CARES Act will help
- In response to a reporter ?: Gov. said that a vast majority of businesses have made their workspace safe for their employees
  - o She said there are some job postings at the state Dept of Labor if people are looking for work
- In response to a reporter ?: Gov. said a shelter in place order from the state would not have impacted Smithfield Foods
  - o She said cities have varying amounts of authority depending on their respective ordinances
  - o Gov. has talked to VP Pence, US Sec. of Ag Sonny Perdue, and Smithfield CEO about an appropriate time to re-open the plant

- Reporter ?: If state funds are down so much, why use state \$\$s for drug study?
  - o The study is important for the state and the US
  - o She said the federal \$\$s may help pay or reimburse
- Reporter ?: If family from McLaughlin had the power turned off, how can they stay safe/wash hands, etc.?
  - o Gov. said that family and any other one experiencing financial hardships should contact state, most likely Dept of Social Services
- Reporter ?: Is state willing to share the same data points with the public that they are planning to share with Sioux Falls mayor?
  - o Gov. said they are willing to do that; will likely share that info with Mayor TenHaken in next day or two
    - Gov. said they expect Sioux Falls to peak with virus cases in the next couple of weeks
- Reporter ?: If Sioux Falls peaks soon, will their hospitals be able to help share the load when the rest of the state peaks in May/June?
  - o Gov. said that is exactly what they expect will happen
- Reporter ?: Will drug trial affect the supply of the drug for those who need it for lupus and other ailments?
  - o Kim Malsom-Rysdon (DOH secretary) – the drugs for those with lupus, etc. come from a different supply so those individuals will not be impacted
  - o Standard rules for drug trials will apply in the trial for the drug that may treat Covid-19