

- Gov. Noem: Regarding Smithfield Foods plant in Sioux Falls, state of SD is continuing to have conversations with federal officials including Ag secretary Perdue and Smithfield Foods CEO
 - Team from CDC will tour Smithfield Foods plant tomorrow (Thursday)
 - Will try to get plant on line ASAP but not before it's safe and the time is right to open the facility
 - There is lots diversity in the workforce so communication can be an issue as there are a number of different dialects and languages among the workforce
 - Again asking SD residents to download and use the CARE 19 app for their phones
 - Using the app will significantly assist in the event of needing to do contact tracing; will greatly decrease the time needed to find where person has been and who they have come in contact with
 - SD is now in possession of 9 Abbott Labs rapid-testing id machines
 - SD has just received these machines in the past couple of days along with the supplies needed to run the tests
 - Will be sending the machines to strategic locations as well as various hot spots in the state including:
 - Watertown, Redfield, Huron, Sioux Falls (2), Mobridge, Martin, Hot Springs and Spearfish
 - Have enough supplies to run more than 700 tests
 - These machines have quick turnaround times to confirm test results
 - The request for these machines and supplies went to the Vice President and the US Sec. of Ag
 - Gov. shifts focus of press conference to modeling that is being done to help state officials and health providers plan and prepare for the peak impacts of the virus
 - Gov. wants everyone to remember that these are projections
 - She said that the models and projections get better as there is more data acquired
 - The current data shows that SD is "bending the curve"
 - Based on current info, it looks like the peak in Sioux Falls will be in mid-May while peak in rest of state will be sometime in June
 - Gov. talked to Sioux Falls mayor this morning
 - Based on current projections, it looks like Sioux Falls area will need 1200-1300 hospital beds at the peak
 - If accurate, there should be enough capacity in current health care systems to handle the surge of patients but state government will continue to over-plan and over-prepare
 - Gov. wants to give a big Thank You to all three major health systems in SD; the systems don't care who gets the credit for work that is being done, many hours of overtime is being put into care and preparations
 - Gov. said the numbers look better as it appears we will need fewer beds and fewer ventilators, but SD still needs to plan for a peak need of 5,000 beds and 1,300 ventilators
 - Dr. Josh Clayton (state epidemiologist) – want to thank all three health systems for their work and partnership with state
 - At peak in June, state of SD will need 2,500 hospital beds and 650 ventilators according to current modeling
 - We are still focusing on planning for worst case scenario

- Gov. said original peak was that SD would need 10,000 hospital beds to handle the peak surge in late April; this was the projection from the models if SD had taken no preventative action
 - Original actions taken by SD cut that number in half to 5,000 beds
 - Staying the course with these measures and having South Dakotans continuing to be diligent about staying home, washing hands, etc. has now cut the original projection in half again to 2,500 beds at peak
- Dr. Suttle (Sanford Health) – Sanford is ready for the peak; have been preparing for worst case scenario
 - We are beginning to see a more realistic picture of what impacts of virus will have on patients and facilities
 - More testing availability will be beneficial to all involved
- Dr. Archer (Monument Health – Rapid City) – We appreciate the ongoing collaboration between all three major health systems
 - The models will not predict hotspots, but current models predict a large reduction in the total number of beds and ventilators that will be needed
- Dr. Bossel (Avera Health) – When we first talked about the models, we knew there would not be a vaccine available for people across the state and across the globe
 - Models now predict that health systems should be able to handle peak patient load with current resources
 - People in SD still need to practice social distancing, wear face masks, wash your hands, etc.
- Gov. said the news we have today is encouraging, but we still need to over-prepare and continue to do what we are doing
- Reporter ?: What info was used to decide where to send the new testing machines?
 - Kim Malsom-Rysdon (state health secretary) – The machines were sent to places that have been hard hit by the virus, or places that do not have ready access to labs that can turn test results around in short order and to places West River
- Reporter ?: How many tests will you be able to run with new machines and supplies, and will state re-deploy resources to other parts of the state from Sioux Falls after they hit their peak?
 - Malsom-Rysdon – Machines will stay as property of state of SD, so will be able to utilize them in other places if necessary
 - Will be able to run 70-90 tests with each machine and the amount of testing supplies
 - State can procure supplies through the federal procurement system or directly from Abbott Labs
 - Gov. said the state had been having problems getting the machines but production has been ramped up
- Reporter ?: US Ag Secretary Perdue tweeted earlier today that he is working closely with Gov. Noem on Smithfield plant issue; what specific steps are you taking?
 - Gov. said the CDC team will go through the Smithfield plant tomorrow; that team will give Smithfield execs and state leaders a checklist with info about what needs to be done to get the plant ready to be re-opened; opening the plant and getting the supply of pork products flowing into the food chain is vital for the nation, but we need to make sure the plant is safe for the people who work there
- Reporter ?: Gov., Sec. Malsom-Rysdon and GOED Commissioner Westra will be on SDPB tonight doing a town hall meeting. What will Gov. be saying on that broadcast?

- Gov. said that she is glad that SDPB will be sharing the video with all TV stations and media outlets in the state
 - We are looking at a plan to open SD
 - There are lots of small businesses that have been drastically impacted by the shutdowns
 - We have a state loan program to get \$\$\$s to help our small businesses pay some of their immediate bills
 - For example, various businesses in the tourism industry have gone from being 100% full during the summer to almost 0
- Reporter ?: Can you give us an update on the status of Smithfield Foods' employees?
 - As of today, there are 518 employees that have tested positive; in addition 127 people who have been in contact with Smithfield employees have tested positive
 - As of today, we expect South Dakota to see its peak in mid-June; we expect Sioux Falls area to see its peak in mid-May
- Reporter ?: Of the people who have been hospitalized in SD, how many have been on ventilator?
 - Dr. Clayton: As of now, we believe that number is four, but that is a conservative number at this point
- Reporter ?: How many people are currently in the Sanford drug trial that was announced earlier this week?
 - Gov. said they do not have current numbers, but there are patients that are utilizing the drug
 - She also added that while Sanford is the lead agency in the trial, Avera and Monument Health are significant players in the trial
- Reporter ?: Is the state Dept. of Health closer to releasing the number of positive and negative tests on a county-by-county basis?
 - Malsom-Rysdon: Yes, we are getting closer to releasing that information
- Reporter ?: Is there an update on the work being done by the National Guard to stand up temporary hospitals to deal with the peak?
 - Gov. said the National Guard is still working on temporary hospitals for Sioux Falls and Rapid City even though the models currently show that SD should have necessary capacity to handle the peak
 - She said that we should be able share the location of those temporary facilities in the near future
- Reporter ?: Does Gov. expect to see every person in SD that leaves their homes use a mask?
 - Malsom-Rysdon: Use of a face mask is a CDC recommendation, not a mandate
 - Still need to maintain a 6' distance and stay home as much as possible