

- Want to start with an update on Smithfield Foods
 - o Smithfield has already implemented many of the likely recommendations that will be coming from the CDC team that toured the plant yesterday
 - o SD is working with the CDC, US Dept. of Ag, city of Sioux Falls and other agencies to help get the plant up and running
- Gov. was on the phone with the President yesterday along with the other governors in the nation
 - o The President laid out a 3-phase plan for how states can open up their economies
 - Because SD did not go into a full shelter in place order, the road map for SD to start to open up the economy is different than many other states
 - The people of South Dakota have overperformed when it comes to taking responsibility and doing the right thing
 - But we need to have everyone continue to be vigilant and compliant for the next several weeks
 - Need to continue to social distance, limit groups to less than 10, wash hands, limit trips to ones that are only essential, etc.
 - If people feel sick, call your doctor first to get directions about what should be done before going to the clinic
 - Based on what South Dakotans have done, we have been able to flatten the curve by 75%
- Gov. wanted to thank a number of different groups for what they have done in recent weeks
 - o Thank You to teachers
 - We have really asked them to be innovative, we have stretched their creativity and workload to come up with new and different ways to deliver curriculum
 - o TY to parents
 - Many parents are now teachers while trying to work from home and still maintain a household
 - o TY to health care professionals
 - These people are on the front lines; many health care professionals have closed their offices (ie. optomistrists, dentists, massage thereapists, chiropractors, etc.) as there is not enough PPE to go around
 - o TY to law enforcement, long term care providers, community support providers
 - o TY to small business owners
 - Have asked them to be innovative and they have responded by making sure their employees are safe while still servicing their customers
 - o TY to GOED staff
 - They have worked overtime to help business owners all over the state who are looking for loan/financial assistance or advice for how to proceed
 - o TY to Dept. of Labor staff
 - They have worked overtime to process record numbers unemployment and re-employment benefit claims
 - o TY to staff at state Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - This is staffed daily by people who are experts in their respective fields and provide the first line of organization when implementing the state's response efforts
 - o TY to state Dept. of Health employees
 - They are experts in the area of public health
 - Gov. is very proud of their efforts and humbled to work them

- TY to state Dept. of Social Services
 - Their staff is working hard to make sure benefits get to people who need assistance in these trying conditions
 - DSS is working to assist people who may be dealing with mental health challenges in these times
- TY to all state employees
 - Have asked them to totally change their work lives in the past several weeks; no one has complained; many state employees are volunteering and stepping up to assist others in communities across the state
- TY to people of South Dakota
 - The nation is watching what we are doing in SD, they are watching our actions; people in SD are acting with grace towards others
- Reporter ?: What is meant by “75% reduction in flattening the curve”?
 - Kim Malsom-Rysdon (Dept. of Health secretary) – started with projections of needing 10,000 hospital beds at the peak in South Dakota; was able to lower that projection to 5,000 beds based on actions taken; now, because of how South Dakotans have complied, we are able to lower our projections to 2,500 hospital beds at peak by mid-June
 - Need to thank South Dakotans for doing the right thing
 - Not expecting a reduction in overall cases, but are expecting a decrease in the number of hospital beds needed at peak surge
 - Gov. said SD has far fewer infections now than had been expected thanks to actions of South Dakota residents
- Reporter ?: How much of the state’s projections have been lowered by resident’s behavior changes and how much is attributable to additional data that has been accumulated?
 - Gov. said it is a combination of both; the change in behavior by South Dakotans has been significant
 - Malsom-Rysdon said SD has worked hard to get testing out to communities; that has helped as well
- Reporter ?: Are people in South Dakota frustrated about not being able to open up economy sooner?
 - Gov. said that we have taken a different approach in SD than many other states; We did not mandate business closings which has relieved some of the pressure that people in other states are facing, but many people in South Dakota want to get back to a normal way of life
 - Gov. said that based on the plan released by the President yesterday that will guide states to open their economies, South Dakota is already in Phase 1, so we may be open sooner than some states
- Reporter ?: How does state look to re-regulate those businesses that had restrictions lifted off them by Gov.’s executive order (EO) which was signed yesterday?
 - Gov. said the state will return to regulating those entities when the EO is no longer in effect (May 31, 2020), unless there is a need to extend the EO
- Reporter ?: How many ICU beds are there in SD versus the total number of hospital beds?
 - Malsom-Rysdon – In our planning, we are looking to stand up 1,300 ICU beds for the peak surge, currently expecting to only need half that number; to date, only 24 patients that have been hospitalized in SD have need to be moved into ICU

- Reporter ?: Corps of Engineers has expressed that due to the amount of attention that is being focused on Covid-19, it has taken away from the potential challenges that spring flooding will present. What is your reaction?
 - Gov. said SD has been fortunate that we have had a drier spring, but we are still monitoring the Missouri River and other areas closely; Northeast SD is still very wet, and James River is still very high; the snowpack in Montana is very high but the weather has cooperated so far and the snowpack is coming off nicely
- Reporter ?: With projections that SD won't see the peak impacts of the virus until mid-June, why are you talking about opening the economy at this time?
 - Gov. said that state government will continue to plan and make decisions that will be prudent and will be best for South Dakota
- Reporter ?: Why has Codington county been moved from minimal community spread to substantial community spread?
 - Malsom-Rysdon – Substantial community is defined as having five or more cases of community-acquired COVID-19 in a county or a distinct group of cases in a single area
- Reporter ?: There has been one confirmed case of Covid-19 at the DemKota beef processing plant in Aberdeen. What lessons have been learned by SD in the aftermath of the breakout at Smithfield Foods in Sioux Falls?
 - Malsom-Rysdon: need to make sure that workers have proper protective equipment and that they are not working side-by-side; need to look at staggered schedules for breaks and lunch/dinner; need to do screening when employees report for work
 - We are looking forward to seeing the full CDC recommendations on Smithfield and sharing those with other employers in SD
 - Gov. said the state Dept. of Health is sending a team to Aberdeen to work with DemKota; will be utilizing interpreters to make sure information is getting to the workers
- Reporter ?: What are you seeing in terms of negative tests when they are broken out on a county-by-county basis?
 - Malsom-Rysdon: There have been tests done in all by one SD county (Perkins); who gets tested is a decision that is made by local health care providers; testing happens at different levels—increased testing in Minnehaha county due to Smithfield Foods, but doing less testing elsewhere since there are fewer cases in other locations
 - Gov. said the Indian Health Service sent testing machines to various reservation areas in the state; the state Dept. of Health does not decide who gets tested, that is a decision of the local health provider
- Reporter ?: Does Gov. have a specific target date to re-open Smithfield plant?
 - Gov. said there is no specific target date to open the plant
- Reporter ?: There have been reports that the CARE-19 app is not working well (The app tracks an individual's travels which can be turned over to health care professionals if the person tests positive). Any truth to that?
 - Malsom-Rysdon – The app only records if you are in one place for 8-10 minutes; it is only intended to record your travels if you are in one place long enough to possibly be exposed to the virus; the app will not record your movements if you walk around your neighborhood, for example