

- Want to start by offering condolences to family of Rep. Bob Glanzer whose funeral was today; Rep. Glazer passed away due to Covid-19
- Need to continue mitigation efforts for next several weeks; not expecting to peak in SD until mid-June
 - o Warmer weather will make people antsy to get outside and do things that will bring people together in groups
- Have set up a medical review committee
 - o Committee will help make decisions and recommendations for when/how to open up SD based on recommendations from White House
 - Committee is comprised of DOH Sec. Malsom-Rysdon and representatives of Avera, Monument and Sanford Health
 - o People need to continue with good hygiene, social distancing, and doing what they have been doing for the past several weeks
- 14,000+ people have downloaded the CARE 19 app which will help with contact tracing investigation if someone tests positive; need more people to download and use the app
- Will have more info coming to the Covid.sd.gov website; info will be more county specific, will have additional info on demographic and impacts by race
- Will see increases in unemployment filings this week; self-contractors, gig economy workers and others will be able to file for the first time
- Smithfield Foods is very important to pork producers and associated businesses in the region
 - o Gov. has been working with the Vice President and Sec. Perdue from USDA to get the plant back online as soon as possible but not before it's safe for workers
 - Plant processes 4,000 hogs/day
 - Gov. signed an executive order earlier today to give the state's pork producers more flexibility in how to handle their hogs until plant is back open
 - Gov. will have final report from CDC in very near future; when state gets it, they will make it public
 - Gov. expects final CDC report will contain a variety of recommendations including more social distancing in the Smithfield workplace, more PPE for the workers; more info in native languages for workers
 - Gov. said Smithfield has already implemented a number of recommendations that will likely be in the final report
- Reporter ?: Has there been a focus on nursing homes in the state's Covid planning?
 - o Gov. said that long term care facilities were identified early on as locations with vulnerable populations; have taken a variety of measures to protect people who live in these facilities
 - o Sec. Malsom-Rysdon (DOH secretary) – DOH knew that long term care facilities would need to be a focus from early in planning process; we have been able to send some money received from federal government to long term care facilities to assist with purchasing PPE
 - Have also been having regular calls with long term care facility providers; did a readiness assessment recently to help facilities with readiness and preparedness
- Reporter ?: Have heard reports that Good Samaritan Society facility in Sioux Falls was not following CDC recommendations for long term care facilities (GSS facility has had several patients and staff test positive in recent days)
 - o Malsom-Rysdon: we can't speak to specifics about GSS; have been doing very aggressive testing in an attempt to minimize impacts on residents, families and employees
- Reporter ?: Can you comment on call with the President?

- Gov. said she was on a call with the Vice President for about 2 hours this morning
 - Expect to have a call with the President later this week
 - Told the VP that SD has testing machines but need supplies to run the machines in order to do the necessary number of tests; have been working with federal govt to secure supplies for testing machines; have also been working to get supplies from Abbott Labs and other private suppliers
- Reporter ? : Does SD have enough testing machines?
 - Gov. said that SD does have enough machines; federal government has sent machines to the Indian Health Service which are now set up and running; health systems have machines and have been running tests; this has helped significantly-in the beginning, only State Health Lab could run the tests
 - No state has the testing capacity they want, but SD is doing well
- Reporter ? : Park Jefferson race track in Jefferson is planning to hold car races on Saturday; have sold 700 tickets and plan to run a limited schedule of races. What are your thoughts about this?
 - Gov. said she has not heard of this but will look into it.
- Reporter ? : Can you give us more specifics on the executive order (EO) that was signed earlier today regarding pork producers, and the closure of a pork plant in Minnesota
 - Gov. said the EO will have producers maintain soil and other environmental regulations but will give them some flexibility on herd counts and numbers of animals that can be kept on site for the near term
 - Gov. said that she has asked Lt. Gov. Rhoden and staff from GOED to help identify alternative markets for hogs
- Reporter ? : Is there a timeline for re-opening the Smithfield plant? What is the priority to make sure we don't have a relapse?
 - Gov. said that state govt asked the CDC to send a team to tour the plant and give recommendations about what needs to be done to get the facility ready for re-opening; Gov. is looking forward to seeing CDC report, but that Smithfield has done a good job with mitigation efforts to date and am looking forward to seeing other recommendations that Smithfield will need to put in place
- Reporter ? : There have been furloughs at Avera and Monument Health in the past week. Does that give you any concerns about their ability to be ready when SD hits its peak?
 - Gov. said it does concern her, but expects the health systems will be ready when the time comes; the furlough has impacts on families; there is federal funds that have been allocated for hospitals but we are waiting for guidance from federal govt on how that money can be spent
- Reporter ? : What is the holdup on the guidance?
 - Gov. said more specific guidance may be part of the next piece of legislation coming from Congress; Gov. has been communicating with the SD Congressional delegation to get language in the bill that will help state and local governments use the funds more effectively
- Reporter ? : Any comments on the DOH team that was sent to Aberdeen late last week to visit the Demkota beef plant?
 - Malsom-Rysdon: So far, there is only one positive case connected to the Demkota plant. The purpose of the visit was to provide suggestions about how to minimize a spread of Covid to others at the plant.