

- Governor Noem said we have reached a critical juncture in our response to the Covid-19 virus
- BIG NEWS OF THE DAY 1: She is re-issuing her original executive order that was set to expire on May 2; will extend the provisions of the order through May 31
 - o New EO will change all the of the “should”s to “shalls” in order to give more explicit instruction to South Dakotans
 - o Text of original EO is contained in this link: <https://www.drgnews.com/gov-noem-issues-executive-order-regarding-covid-19-guidelines-for-south-dakota/>
- BIG NEWS OF THE DAY 2: She is also signing a new executive order for Minnehaha and Lincoln counties directing people over 65 and those with compromised immune systems in those counties to stay home for the next three weeks
 - o 58% of those hospitalized with covid in SD are 60+ years old
 - o Need to limit travel; only critical travel should be done by those impacted by this EO
 - o 80% of deaths nationally are 60+ years old
 - o The people impacted by this EO in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties can still go outside, they should still get exercise, but need to practice social distancing and good hygiene
 - o Need to do anything possible to maintain and strengthen mental health
- BIG NEWS OF THE DAY 3: Governor said it does not make sense to re-open schools this year so she is asking schools to finish the year utilizing e-learning services
- Governor Noem invited several cabinet secretaries to make remarks about their respective departments’ responses to the covid outbreak
 - o Laurie Gill (Department of Social Services)
 - DSS has added flexibility to signup and program delivery whenever possible
 - Various benefit programs are available
 - DSS staff are working remotely
 - DSS customers are being asked to utilize DSS information and resources online or can call offices via phone
 - Various economic assistance is available for families including SNAP, TANF, child care assistance, Medicaid, children’s health insurance, heating assistance
 - If someone is struggling with mental health or substance abuse, resources are available
 - Suicide hotline is available
 - There has been a wider use of telemedicine
 - o Marcia Hultman (Dept. of Labor and Regulation)
 - Primary focus has been on getting unemployment \$\$s to eligible people
 - DOL just received guidance late on Saturday night from feds for \$600 payments to unemployed
 - Working to get that information processed and payments issued
 - \$600 will be added to future UI payments; no need to fill out any additional paperwork
 - DOL has added 50-60 employees to staff UI call center; usually have 11 people handling calls on “regular” day; extra people are not new hires, but current staff that have been re-directed
 - Hultman said that if someone quits work just to receive UI benefits when employer has work to do, that can be viewed as fraud
 - o Steve Westra (GOED)
 - Economic Injury Program has been approved for SD by Small Business Admin
 - Paycheck Protection Program is being administered through SBA

- Impacted businesses can go to local lenders; local bank officials will help with application paperwork
 - Gov. Noem created Small Business Relief Fund with existing GOED funds
 - Application went live last Friday on GOED website
 - \$5,000-\$75,000 loans are available in \$5,000 increments
 - 0% interest, no payments for 6 months, no fees
 - Goal is to have \$\$\$s in business' bank account within a week after application is completed
 - Funds available on first come, first served
 - Jim Hagen (Tourism)
 - No sector more adversely impacted than tourism
 - National tourism group estimates the downturn will be 7x greater than that experienced after 9/11 terror attacks
 - Dept. of Tourism is communicating 2-3x/week with tourism industry businesses; passing along info on available programs and resources
 - Tourism Department has been working well with GOED
 - Have heard from people across the US and overseas that they plan to travel to SD when pandemic is over
- Governor again praised work of state employees who have stepped up repeatedly in past several weeks
- She said she will use every authority given to exec branch to make sure South Dakotans follow the directions of the two new executive orders
- Reporter ?: have you seen letter from state Municipal League asking for Governor to enforce stronger measures?
 - We have received the letter; have discussed the various issues being advocated by local government leaders; Gov. asked for bill on veto day that would have given local leaders the powers they are asking for in the letter but Legislature decided to not support
- Reporter ?: Can you comment on hospitalization rates?
 - Kim Malsom-Rysdon (state health secretary): State is able to track hospitalization rates
 - 24 people have been in the hospital due to Covid virus since March 10
 - Governor said the most vulnerable populations are those that are 65+ years old and those with underlying health conditions
 - Those populations in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties need to stay home for the next 3 weeks
- Reporter ?: Why no info on the new deaths in SD (ie. Age/location)?
 - Malsom-Rysdon: We need to protect identity of those involved
- Reporter ?: What is current ventilator availability (was 525 on Friday)?
 - Malsom-Rysdon: Currently have 50 in state cache, remainder are with health systems
 - Working with federal partners (IHS and VA); will see how those resources can be utilized
 - Governor said that if our plans work, we may need fewer ventilators than the expected number of 1,300 at peak
 - Vents are expensive (\$25-30,000 each)
 - Gov is talking to other gov's; saying if their state peaks early can resources (ie. Vents) be shipped to SD
 - Gov said they are also talking to other countries that are peaking early, seeing if resources can be sent to SD

- Reporter ? : What are the impacts of changing “should” to “shall” in new executive order
 - o Governor Noem said that it gives a very clear direction to all South Dakotans about what their personal behavior should be going forward
- Reporter ? : What are the consequences to businesses/individuals if they don't follow language of new EO?
 - o Governor said she will use every power currently available to her
 - o She said people need to do the right thing; because of what SD residents have already done, the peak infection rates have been cut in half
- Reporter ? : Has Gov explored a way to issue a moratorium on evictions?
 - o Gov said they are looking at ways to assist, and that there are programs available to assist those who may be facing this situation
- Governor said she is extremely grateful to the state's Congressional delegation for the work they have done, especially with regard to the passage of the CARES Act
 - o State is waiting for guidance from feds on how to use the federal \$\$s that will flow from CARES Act
 - Gov has concerns about language that says federal \$\$s can't be used to replace lost revenue lost by states
 - She said a lot of how South Dakota will be impacted will be because of lost revenue, so she is asking for flexibility on how those funds are administered and utilized