

- Gov. said that there were about 1,100 tests done at the mass testing event in Sioux Falls yesterday
  - o That adds to the 1,500 that were done on Monday
  - o Should be seeing results from that event in the next 24-48 hours
  - o A big thank you to Dept. of Health, Avera, CDC and SD National Guard for all their assistance in making the testing event work
  - o Gov. wants to prepare people for a significant increase in the number of positive cases that will be reported in the next couple of days due to the number of tests that were run, but people need to focus on the number of hospitalizations to get a better picture of the impacts of the virus
  - o Also a big thank you to the language specialists who assisted with the event-they were integral to the success of the event
- Gov. said she held a call with legislators last night
  - o Was good to hear from them and hear what is going on in their communities
  - o Were able to discuss preliminary budget numbers, etc.
- Gov. wants to extend big thanks to National Guard
  - o They have set up 2 temporary hospital units, 25 ambulance teams, 21 aerial units to respond if needed
  - o Guard has also set up call centers to help with contact tracing and have contingency plans to help with food distribution if needed
- Today is National Nurses Day
  - o Gov. said more than 10,000 nurses work in SD (more than 350 work for state government)
  - o Nurses go above and beyond the ordinary call of duty, especially in times like this
    - Gov. said she visited with a nurse who had just come out of 14 days in quarantine because she worked in a hospital setting and didn't want to possibly spread the virus to her young children
- Gov. also wanted to recognize National Travel and Tourism Week
  - o Normally, SD would be getting ready to welcome travelers from across the globe to our state
  - o Now, more than ever, we need to support our tourism businesses
- Reporter ?: Is the state looking at opening visitor centers on the interstate highway system?
  - o Gov. said there is an on-going analysis of that issue but at this time there is no plan to open them
- Reporter ?: Can you give an update on the status of state employees returning to their work spaces?
  - o Gov. said that state employees will likely move back to their offices in phases
    - Each agency is doing its own analysis of their employees and their respective work spaces
    - When they return to work, employees will be physically distanced and will continue to practice good hygiene
    - Some employees will continue to work remotely
- Reporter ?: In a note to the press yesterday, Gov's staff called an Associate Press story about the Governor's future political plans inaccurate. What was inaccurate about the story?
  - o Gov. said it was inappropriate to use anonymous sources and that there were a number of other inaccurate facts
  - o Gov. said that Corey Lewandowski (Pres. Trump's 2016 campaign manager) was in Pierre within the last year, but that he does not have undue influence over the Governor-she is

an independent woman who makes her own decisions after hearing facts and information

- NOTE: link to the story in question is pasted below:
  - <https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2020-05-05/a-resume-for-future-office-virus-tests-a-gop-governor>
- Reporter ?: Can you give us an update about the use of federal money coming to SD from the CARES Act?
  - Gov. said that the US Treasury Dept is changing the guidance on how states can use the funds quite often; state budget office is staying up to date on all of those changes
  - State govt is using available resources to cover current costs and have rainy day funds available to plan for future budget contingencies
- Reporter ?: This may be premature but has Gov. given any thought to next budget and whether there may need to be employee cuts, higher taxes or use of the rainy day fund to balance the budget?
  - Gov. said she has not had a formal discussion with staff and legislators about upcoming budget issues as we don't know the full extent of the problem at this point; Gov. won't commit to using the state's rainy day fund but won't take it off the table either
- Reporter ?: Is the Dept. of Health doing anything with Good Samaritan facility in Sioux Falls that is now reporting 15 deaths associated with the virus?
  - Kim Malsom-Rysdon (Dept. of Health secretary) – DOH has been working closely with Good Samaritan; have performed mass testing with staff and residents; DOH is working with them on infection control measures; DOH staff has daily calls with GSS, and DOH feels good about the response that GSS has had to the outbreak so far
    - Malsom-Rysdon said that long term care facilities across the state have been shown to have very good practices; DOH has been doing on-site visits to review each site; staff and administrators at all facilities visited so far have been receptive to state inspectors; facilities have made good use of PPE
- Reporter ?: What would National guard aerial units be used for?
  - Gov. said they would be used to transport patients from remote areas to hospitals who may be better equipped to handle that particular patient
- Reporter ?: What is the status of a special legislative session for budget issues?
  - Gov. said they don't have clear guidance on a special session at this point; may be able to get by without one if guidance from US Treasury become more clear, or may be able to delay until sometime in the fall
- Reporter ?: How many people are currently enrolled in the HCQ drug trial?
  - Malsom-Rysdon – Don't have current numbers but there were 270 enrolled as of a couple of days ago; some are in-patient and some are out-patient including some in other states that are in Sanford Health network; overall number may be low due to the low number of cases in SD currently
- Reporter ?: How has Smithfield Foods done in getting plant re-opened?
  - Gov. said Smithfield will be putting out information about their re-opening in the near future
    - There are some employees in the facility now
    - Smithfield hopes to be at full capacity sometime next week