



Office of the City Administrator

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**SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) released updated recommendations yesterday (March 16) for general community strategies to help slow the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). The City of Hutchinson continues to encourage its residents to follow the recommendations of the MDH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MDH recommends postponing and canceling the following until further notice:

- Large events where 50 people or more would gather, including but not limited to:
 - Concerts
 - Conferences
 - Professional, college, and school performances or sporting events
 - Festivals and parades
 - Weddings
 - Other types of assemblies
- Smaller events (fewer than 50 people) that are held in crowded auditoriums, rooms or other venues that do not allow social distancing of 6 feet per person.
- Events with more than 10 people where the majority of participants are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including gatherings such as those at:
 - Retirement facilities.
 - Assisted living facilities.
 - Developmental homes.
 - Support groups for people with health conditions.
- Events of any size should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene and social distancing. When feasible, organizer could modify events to be virtual

MDH also recommends that restaurants and bars close for dine-in service through 5 p.m. on March 27:

- Drive-through and take-out delivery can continue and MDH recommends that restaurants focus on these services.
 - Within restaurants, staff should try to keep at least 6 feet of distance from each other as much as possible.
 - Orders should be sealed by restaurants in tamper-resistant packaging.
 - For the safety of delivery personnel, restaurants should encourage "contactless" delivery allowing no face-to-face contact between delivery personnel and customers. Payments to be made via digital means whenever possible. Orders to be dropped off at a designated spot with no face-to-face contact at a distance of less than 6 feet.

MDH also recommends grocery stores/pharmacies/hardware stores/retail outlets with these services remain open with social distancing measures:

- Social distancing should be encouraged within stores and at checkouts and signage regarding distancing of at least 6 feet between persons in the stores should be posted.
- When possible, delivery of items (using same safety steps as above for restaurants), online ordering and pickup should be encouraged over in-store shopping.

MDH recommends non-essential retail outlets close, with the exception of those that choose to remain open on a limited bases to fill online or phone orders for pickup or delivery.

MDH recommends venues such as movie theaters, bowling alleys, and other recreational activities close through 5 p.m. on March 27.

MDH recommends public buildings remain open, so long as they can maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons.

For all workplaces including restaurants and stores remaining open, it is important that employees assess themselves for symptoms regularly and go home right away if ill. All employees should practice careful and frequent hand hygiene, not touch their faces with unwashed hands and use respiratory etiquette.

You can view these recommendations, recommendations for individual personal protective measures, and additional recommendations for subgroups with higher risk on the MDH website: https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/action.html?fbclid=IwAR188clCKFJRvyS WUyh5m8wIfHMAAUEPATU_yaWU5b4Fk1A8WP_VBa3lvRY

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