



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

Todd County
● MINNESOTA ● EST. 1855 ●

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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COVID-19 Update: Stay at Home Order Extension & Religious Services Guidance

As of April 9, 2020, Todd County has no lab confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). Although due to a shortage of COVID-19 testing materials, local transmission of the virus may be currently occurring in Todd County. On April 8, 2020, Governor Walz extended the Stay at Home Order to May 3, 2020 at 11:59pm. This order directs Minnesotans to limit movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs. By limiting social interactions, we decrease the chance of transmission of COVID-19 and help our health care sector prepare for increased demands. Additionally, the closure of bars, restaurants, and other public accommodations is extended until May 3, 2020.

Minnesotans may leave their homes to pick up essential items such as groceries or food, prescriptions, and gas, to relocate for safety reasons, or go to work if their job is deemed essential in a sector. If you leave your home, practice social distancing measures and keep at least six feet between you and those around you. Everyone is encouraged to stay active outside during this time, provided they practice safe social distancing.

Religious Service Guidance

We understand important religious holidays are approaching and communities are seeking clarification on how they can safely observe. The safest solution is for everyone to stay home and observe services virtually if possible.

If a religious institution would like to facilitate in-person socially distanced gatherings in parking lots, we recommend the following:

- Congregants must remain in their cars.
 - o If in cars with windows up, cars may park immediately adjacent to one another.
 - o If in cars with windows down, cars must park 6 feet apart.
- There should not be any touching, passing of objects, sharing cups or food.
- Communion or other ceremonial proceedings in which items are shared among celebrants and worshipers should be in individually wrapped packages. These items should be available to be picked up and not hand delivered. If in the case of a mobility impaired parishioner the pastor/leader/celebrant should be wearing gloves, face mask, and eye protection when giving communion.

Todd County has set up a website with information for the public at: <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/> As this is a rapidly changing situation please continue to check back to this website for updates.

The Minnesota Department of Health has set up the following hotlines to answer questions:

Community mitigation (schools, child care, business) questions:

651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Health questions:

651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.