



Yesterday, Governor Walz announced changes to a variety of social and business settings effective June 1st and a preview of what future phases of reopening will allow in the coming months. The announcement was disappointing to say the least for many businesses and residents, and we will be working with our local and state government representatives to urge forward movement toward reopening our economy in safe and responsible ways. As a reminder, our office will be closed on Friday, May 22nd and Monday May 25th in observance of Memorial Day. We will return to remote work on Tuesday, May 26th. We wish everyone a safe Memorial Day weekend.

Summary of the New Social and Workplace Guidance Changes

We know there are a lot of different items to track in both our workplace and social settings. The State of Minnesota has developed a [matrix](#) summarizing current COVID-19 guidelines and how those are expected to change in future phases of the Stay Safe MN reopening of our economy. DEED has also released a series of PDFs on Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening for a variety of industry types and recreational activities. [Click here](#) to access the guideline documents on business settings and social settings.

Major changes effective June 1st include:

Restaurants and bars are able to be open for outdoor seating only on June 1.

- There can be no more than 4 people at a table or 6 from the same family
- Tables must be 6 feet apart following social distancing guidelines
- Reservations will be required; no walk-ins allowed
- Masks will also be required for employees and strongly encouraged for patrons
- Restaurant can have 50 people maximum at one time in outdoor seating
- Restaurants are encouraged to check with local government and be creative in making outdoor space available
- Take-out and delivery options remain

Personal care settings such as salons and barber shops can also re-open on June 1 but cannot exceed more than 25% occupancy at a time.

- 25% occupancy is based on the fire code/occupancy permit
- Masks are required for both employees and patrons in these settings
- Appointments only; no walk-ins allowed

Gatherings rules remain 10 people or less. Campgrounds can open on June 1 with social distancing measures. Individual youth sports and sports that are able to be played with under 10 people are allowed. Sports games not allowed at this time. Daytime summer camps are allowed; overnight summer camps are not allowed at this time. Gyms and fitness centers are not allowed to reopen yet and are included in future phases of the planned reopening of Minnesota's economy.

Survey on Restaurant and Bar Outdoor Dining Options in Hibbing

The Hibbing Area Chamber is working with the City of Hibbing and St. Louis County on options to allow interested bars and restaurants to use outdoor space adjacent to their business for outdoor seating. We need your input to develop a plan on what that will look like for our community. [Click here](#) to take the survey.



Update on Workers' Comp During COVID-19

The MN Dept. of Labor and Industry clarified in a call this morning that it is not permissible to ask employees to sign a waiver asking them not to seek workers comp due to COVID-19 related causes. The Dept. of Labor and Industry noted that it is not enforceable for the employer, and it violates the law to prevent workers from filing workers' compensation claims. Further discussion on workers' compensation related to COVID-19 is expected during an upcoming special session of the Minnesota Legislature, and we will keep you updated as legislation on that topic progresses.

Update on Insurance Coverage for Antibody Testing

The MN Dept. of Commerce clarified in a call this morning that currently, antibody testing is not necessarily included as a no-cost COVID-19 test under federal requirements. Individuals and businesses who are looking at the use of antibody testing should contact their individual insurance companies to see what co-pays and cost sharing are currently in place for antibody testing. The MN Dept. of Commerce is working with the insurance industry in our state to further clarify and work towards low cost or no cost antibody testing, knowing that antibody testing may be critical for businesses and their workers as we move forward through the COVID-19 pandemic. We will keep you updated as we hear more on antibody testing including FDA approval and guidelines and federal and state legislative impacts on antibody testing costs. To learn more about the difference between diagnostic and antibody testing for coronavirus, [click here](#).