

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

Emergency Executive Order 21-24

Extending the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency Declared in Executive Order 20-01

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present an unprecedented and rapidly evolving challenge to our State. On January 31, 2020, the United States declared a public health emergency. The World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020. A national emergency and major disaster declarations for all 50 states and the District of Columbia soon followed. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause significant risks to public health and safety. On February 24, 2021, the President continued the national emergency that was first declared on March 13, 2020.

On March 13, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-01 and declared a peacetime emergency under Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 12.31, subdivision 2. On March 16, 2020, the Executive Council approved an extension of the peacetime emergency. After notifying the Legislature, I have issued additional executive orders extending the peacetime emergency every 30 days. In this Executive Order, the peacetime emergency declared in Executive Order 20-01 and extended in Executive Orders 20-35, 20-53, 20-75, 20-78, 20-83, 20-89, 20-92, 20-97, 20-100, 21-04, 21-08, 21-12, 21-19, and 21-22 is referred to as the "COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency."

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all 50 states declared states of emergency, and 43 of them are in place today. In April 2021, the federal government again extended the nationwide COVID-19 public health emergency for an additional 90 days. This is because COVID-19 cases and deaths continue. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), over 33 million people have been infected in the United States, resulting in over 596,000 deaths. The COVID-19 pandemic also continues to take its toll on Minnesota. We have seen over 600,000 positive COVID-19 cases and over 32,000 hospitalizations. We have now lost over 7,500 family members, neighbors, and friends to the virus.

I have noted in previous executive orders that the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency opens our toolbox, allowing us to take swift and appropriate action to protect the health and well-being of our families, communities, and businesses. During the past year, I have exercised executive

authority through numerous executive orders to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, we have put many of our emergency tools back in our toolbox. Last month, I signed Executive Orders 21-21 and 21-23, which ended restrictions on businesses and gatherings, ended the face covering requirements in most settings, and rescinded over twenty emergency executive orders in May and June.

Widespread vaccination has fueled our recent success and allowed us to lift restrictions. The COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency has allowed us to establish a best-in-class vaccination program to reach people across Minnesota. We lead the Midwest in our progress toward full vaccination. Over 2.9 million Minnesotans have received at least one dose of vaccine, over 2.6 million Minnesotans have completed a full vaccine series, and over 90 percent of those over the age of 65 are fully vaccinated. With children as young as age 12 now eligible to receive the vaccine, emergency authority is particularly essential for the quick, equitable, and safe distribution of vaccine necessary to protect our community and economy. While vaccination progress across the state is encouraging, emergency authority allows for nimble outreach to communities where rates are lagging. The State Emergency Operations Center continues to provide ongoing support to local governments, and—as the continued appropriation of significant public funds to fight the pandemic plainly shows—local resources remain inadequate to address the threat.

In Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 12.31, subdivision 2(a), the Minnesota Legislature authorized the Governor to declare a peacetime emergency when an act of nature endangers life and property and local government resources are inadequate to handle the situation. With the approval of the Executive Council, a peacetime emergency may continue for up to 30 days. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 12.31, subdivision 2(b), provides the mechanism for the Governor to extend a peacetime emergency beyond 30 days. If the Governor determines a need to extend a peacetime emergency declaration beyond 30 days, and the Legislature is not sitting in session, the Governor must issue a call immediately convening both houses of the Legislature. The Legislature commenced its regular session on January 5, 2021 and adjourned on May 17, 2021. On June 11, 2021, I issued a proclamation calling the Legislature into a special session to begin today, June 14, 2021. The Legislature may terminate a peacetime emergency extending beyond 30 days by a majority vote of each house.

Minnesota law does not clearly impose additional requirements for an extension of a peacetime emergency beyond the initial 30 days. Given the importance of this decision, I previously concluded that the prudent course was to limit subsequent extensions to 30-day increments and seek the Executive Council's approval of such extensions. I continue that course today.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. I have determined that the COVID-19 pandemic, an act of nature, continues to endanger life and property in Minnesota, and local resources are inadequate to address the threat. The COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency must therefore continue.
2. The COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency is extended through July 14, 2021, until this Executive Order is rescinded by proper authority, or until it is terminated by a

majority vote of each house of the Legislature pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 12.31, subdivision 2(b), whichever occurs earlier.

3. The COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency may be further extended by an executive order on or before July 14, 2021.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 4.035, subdivision 2, and section 12.32, this Executive Order is effective immediately.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on June 14, 2021.



Tim Walz
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Approved by the Executive Council on June 14, 2021:



Alice Roberts-Davis
Secretary, Executive Council

Filed June 14, 2021
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon