



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: March 25, 2020

CONTACT
Darcy Dwyer
218-822-7025
Darcy.Dwyer@crowwing.us

Crow Wing County Services Continue During “Stay at Home” Executive Order by Minnesota Governor

All Crow Wing County Services will continue for residents during the two week “Stay at Home” executive order by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. Under the order, the Governor asks Minnesotans to stay in their homes for two weeks unless absolutely necessary. The Governor specified workers who are considered essential to continue to work during the “Stay at Home” order. Some workers considered essential are: Health care and public health, law enforcement, public safety and first responders, childcare workers and food and agriculture. Other essential workers include providers of home care and human services workers, mental health and substance abuse therapy or who are otherwise caring for a client. As well as workers providing or supporting home-based care for adults, seniors and children.

Under the official order county employees are also exempt from the order, meaning that Crow Wing County staff will continue working and serving residents. “Employees remain committed to keep public safety and the health of residents as top priorities.” said Crow Wing County Administrator Tim Houle. “Although County buildings are not open for walk in traffic, staff remain ready to provide services online and by phone. Services include those of public safety including, law enforcement, snow plow drivers, correctional officers, probation officers and social workers.”

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, with the COVID-19 mitigation in place such as closing schools, halting dine in service at bars and restaurants and encouraging social distancing the state has slowed down the peak time of COVID-19 by 50%. Under the order, Minnesota joins other states including Wisconsin, California, Ohio and Illinois to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The order asks all Minnesotans to remain at home unless they have essential reasons like going to the doctor, getting groceries or medication.

Houle added, “We are taking the order of our Governor very seriously and listening to our leaders. Many of our employees are continuing to work but doing so remotely. As a result, most employees are already sheltered in place. I also want to assure our residents that our dispatchers will continue to take 9-1-1 calls; our deputies will still respond to emergencies. Our jail staff will continue to work in our jail. Our probation agents will continue to check on clients. Our social workers will continue to help families and check on our older population. If we get more snow, our plows will be out. County staff are committed to serving the public every day and under these circumstances it isn’t any different. We shouldn’t focus on fear. We should focus on being there for each other, even from a distance. We are in this together and we will take care of each other.”

The executive “Stay at Home” order starts Friday 3/27 at midnight until Friday April 10th at 5:00 pm. The order directs Minnesotans to stay at home except for essential needs. The Governor’s order also extended the closure of bars and restaurants until May 1st and schools will continue distance learning until May 4th.

If you have a question about services in Crow Wing County call 218-824-1067 or visit www.crowwing.us.

###

Our Vision: Being Minnesota’s favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.