

Governor Walz – Stay at Home Order

On Wednesday, March 25, 2020 Governor Walz signed Emergency Executive Order 20-20, Directing Minnesotans to Stay Home. The Governor extended that order with Emergency Executive Order 20-33 on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. Limiting activities to only those which are most essential and practicing social distancing at all times are vital tools required to mitigate the community spread of COVID-19 in Minnesota and nationwide. The extended Executive Order is in effect, and Minnesotans are ordered to stay home except to engage in certain critical activities and work, through Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

The extended Executive Order is available online at <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/archive/execorders/20-33.pdf>. Additional guidance on the order is available at <https://mn.gov/governor/covid-19/faq.jsp> and critical worker guidance on the DEED website: <http://mn.gov/deed/critical>. Questions regarding whether a business is exempt can also be sent to DEED at criticalsectors@state.mn.us.

The extended Executive Order recognizes that a number of housing-related functions are critical to the state and provides ways that work can continue as safely as possible, including:

- State and local agencies and other organizations responsible for ensuring safe and stable housing, including financing affordable housing.
- Maintenance and other operations supports for housing.
- Construction and skilled trades.
- Real estate transactions.

Below are areas considered Critical Sectors under Paragraph 6 of the Executive Order that relate to housing. Workers in these areas, who are performing work that cannot be done at home or remotely, can continue to travel to and from their place of work:

- 6(i)(ii) Housing, shelter, and homelessness-prevention staff of state and local agencies and organizations responsible for ensuring safe and stable housing, including workers from state and local agencies and organizations with responsibility for ensuring safe and stable housing; shelter outreach or drop-in center programs; financing affordable housing; and administering rent subsidies, homeless interventions, operating supports, and similar supports. This includes workers necessary to provide repairs, maintenance and operations support to residential dwellings.
- 6(i)(iv) Workers supporting building code enforcement necessary to maintain public safety and health and for all ongoing construction.
- 6(aa) Construction and critical trades. This category includes workers in the skilled trades such as electricians, plumbers, HVAC and elevator technicians, and other related construction of all kinds. This category also includes exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, moving and relocation services, security staff, operating engineers, and all other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintain the safety,

sanitation, and essential operation of homes and residences and the Critical Sectors listed in this Executive Order.

- 6(cc) Hotels, residential facilities, and shelters. This category includes workers supporting hotels and motels, facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, and children, including victims of domestic violence, people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse disorders, or mental illness. Such facilities and shelters include halfway houses and residential treatment programs. This category also includes workers needed to keep apartment complex buildings and other congregate residences or homes operational and sanitary.
- 6(ii) Real Estate Transactions. This category is limited to workers who facilitate and finance real estate transactions and real estate services, including appraisers and title services.

FAQs:

Can housing construction continue in the state?

Yes. Construction and critical trades are considered a Critical Sector under the order and housing construction can continue. The order includes workers in the skilled trades such as electricians, plumbers, HVAC and elevator technicians, and other related construction of all kinds.

Does it matter if the project is new construction or rehabilitation?

No. Construction related to both new construction projects and rehabilitation is allowed to continue. In addition to construction being a Critical Sector, the order also includes several provisions that recognize the need for repairs, maintenance and operations support to residential dwellings as well as workers in skilled trades, electricians, construction workers, plumbers, HVAC and elevator technicians and all other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of homes and residences.

Can property managers and maintenance staff for affordable housing developments continue to come to work?

Yes. Workers necessary to provide repairs, maintenance, and operations support to residential dwellings are exempted. Also exempted are workers in skilled trades, electricians, construction workers, plumbers, HVAC and elevator technicians and all other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of homes and residences.

Can I move to a new home or apartment?

Yes, individuals are permitted to move to a new home or place of residence, provided they follow MDH Guidelines to the maximum extent possible. Moving and relocation services are also allowed to continue.

Can real estate transactions continue?

Yes. Workers who facilitate and finance real estate transactions and real estate services, including appraisers and title services are exempted and can continue to facilitate those transactions.

What if I'm not safe in my home?

Individuals whose homes or residences are unsafe or become unsafe, including individuals who have suffered or are at risk of domestic violence or for whom the safety, sanitation or essential operations of the home or residence cannot be maintained, are allowed and urged to leave their home or residence and relocate to a safe alternative home or residence.

If you are in immediate danger, please call 911. If you or your family are in crisis and need shelter due to domestic violence, contact Tubman at 612-825-0000 or Mission Inc. at 763-559-4945.

Can or should a property manager tell tenants they can't leave their homes?

No. Property managers should not tell tenants they cannot leave their homes. All individuals in Minnesota are expected to comply with the requirements of the executive order, but are allowed to engage in activities allowed under that order, including identified outdoor activities, health and safety activities, and obtaining food and supplies, and working in identified critical sectors.