



**DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES**

COVID-19 Response for At-Risk Populations  
Daniel Pollock, Assistant Commissioner, DHS and  
Working Group Co-Chair

**Governor's Council for an Age-Friendly Minnesota**

August 12, 2020

**Develop and implement both near and long-term strategies and guidance for populations facing increased COVID-19 risks:**

- To best protect their health and safety
- To provide person-centered care and housing/alternative sites (outside of inpatient hospitals)

# Governor Walz's Executive Orders

## Executive Order 20-12: Waivers under peacetime emergency authority

Minnesota Statutes, section 12A.10  
– Expedited reimbursement for nursing home providers in which one or more residents and/or staff are infected with COVID-19

<https://mn.gov/dhs/waivers-and-modifications/>

Waivers under peacetime emergency authority, Executive Order 20-12: For Medicaid and MinnesotaCare approvals received

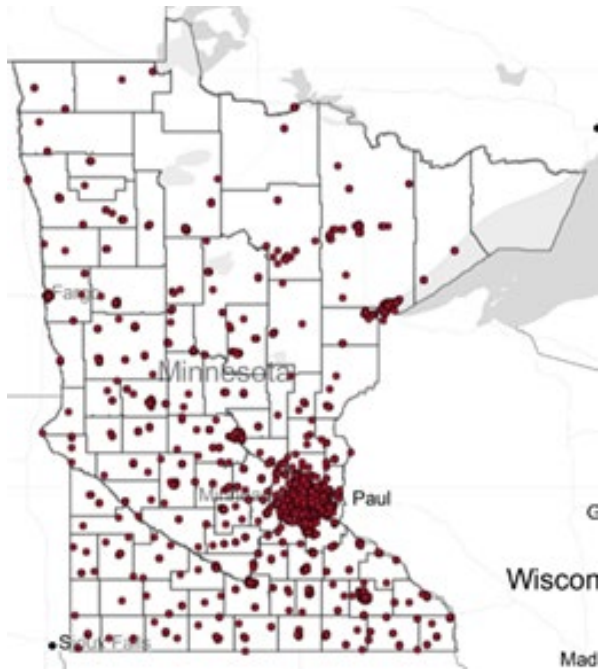
- + [1. Preserving health care coverage for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare - amended \(CV17\)](#)
- + [2. Allowing phone or internet visits for waiver programs \(CV15\)](#)
- + [3. Expanding access to telemedicine services for Children's Health Insurance Program, Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees \(CV16\)](#)
- + [4. Allowing 90-day supply of prescription maintenance medications \(CV19\)](#)
- + [5. Postponing provider screening and re-enrollment \(CV22\)](#)
- + [6. Eliminating cost-sharing for COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment \(CV20\)](#)
- + [7. Expanding telemedicine in health care, mental health, and substance use disorder settings \(CV30\)](#)
- + [8. Allowing phone or video use for targeted case management visits \(CV24\)](#)

Changes under existing authority to respond to COVID-19

In addition to the changes outlined above under the emergency authority, the commissioner made the changes below under the authority of existing laws.

- + [1. Waiving work requirements for certain SNAP participants \(CV18\)](#)
- + [2. Suspending sanctions for some Minnesota Family Investment Program and Diversionary Work Program participants \(CV06\)](#)
- + [3. Expediting payments to nursing homes \(CV01\)](#)

# Where do the 277,199 people live who are at-risk of serious illness due to COVID-19?



## Long-term Services and Supports

- Nursing Facilities
- Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/DD)
- Assisted Living (Housing with Services)
- Adult Foster Care/Community Residential Services

## Residential Behavioral Health Facilities

- Licensed substance use disorder treatment facilities
- Licensed residential facilities, adults w/mental illness
- Detox Facilities
- Withdrawal Management Facilities
- Community Based Behavioral Health Hospitals
- IMDs
- Other Tribe-certified facilities that aren't licensed

## In-home settings

- Older adults receiving PCA and similar services
- People with disabilities receiving PCA and similar services

## Other Congregate Facilities

- Boarding Care Homes
- Board and Lodges, for people with disabling conditions
- Board and Lodges with Special Services
- Supervised Living Facilities
- Housing with Services (Not Assisted Living)
- Site-based Supportive Housing for people who were homeless
- Sober Homes
- Halfway Houses (exiting Corrections)
- Affordable housing/section 8

## Emergency Shelter Programs

- Emergency Shelter
- Domestic Violence Shelters
- Drop-in Centers
- Homeless Outreach to Unsheltered Individuals

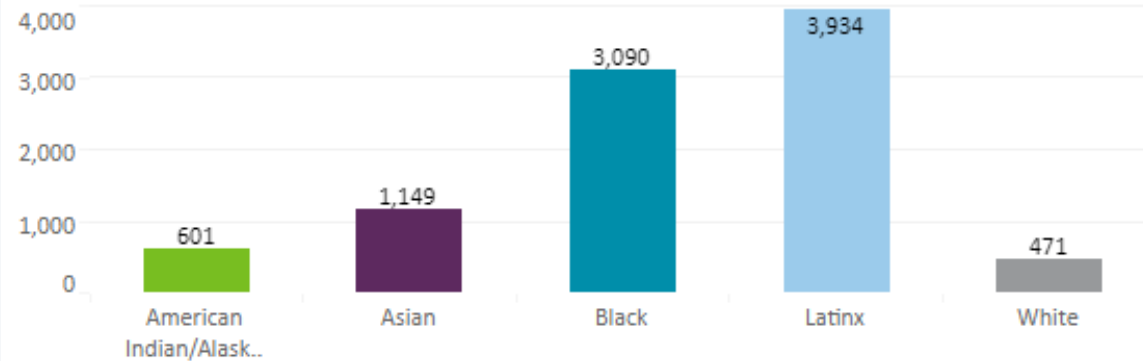
# Medicaid Emergency Funding for COVID-19 Response

- Nursing facilities (since March 2020) have been eligible for expedited Medicaid rate payments for COVID-related costs
  - 24 Facilities have submitted from 1 to 4 applications each with a total of \$3.5M requested
  - \$2.1M has been approved for payment
  - \$1.1M in funding requests denied as not meeting requirements of section 12A.10.
- Assisted living providers received a 50% Medicaid rate add-on for 45 days when they reported 1+ COVID case among staff and residents between 3/13/20 and 7/31/20. Providers have until August 31<sup>st</sup> to submit documentation for a qualifying COVID infection event.
  - 386 providers eligible; 260 have applied and been approved
  - Total spending is around \$8M

# The pandemic has not impacted all communities equally

- Significant higher incidence of COVID in certain communities of color; reflecting variations in employment; housing status; health disparities and access to PPE.

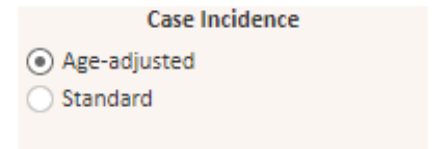
**CASE INCIDENCE PER 100,000 RESIDENTS**  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY - AGE-ADJUSTED



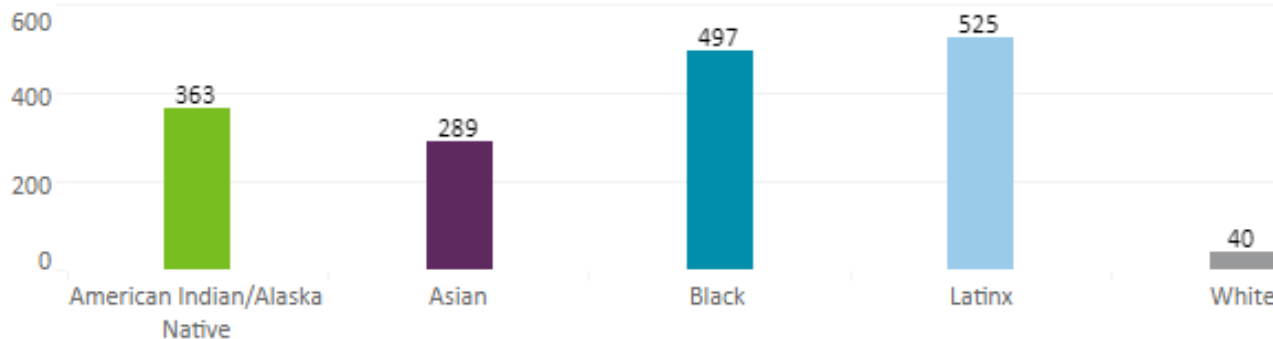
**Latinx** Minnesotans are testing positive for COVID-19 at more than 8 times the rate of white Minnesotans.\*

**Black** Minnesotans are testing positive for COVID-19 at more than 6 times the rate of white Minnesotans.\*

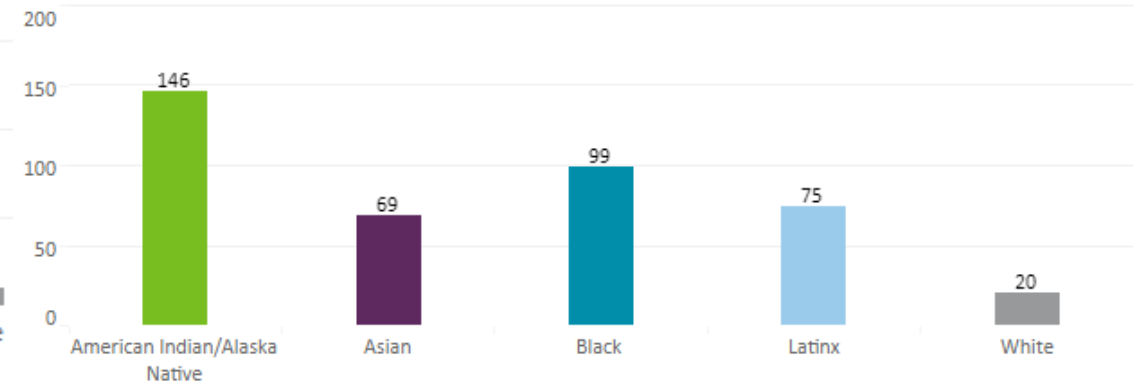
\*Age-adjusted rates



**HOSPITAL INCIDENCE PER 100,000 RESIDENTS**  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY - AGE-ADJUSTED



**DEATH INCIDENCE PER 100,000 RESIDENTS**  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY - AGE-ADJUSTED



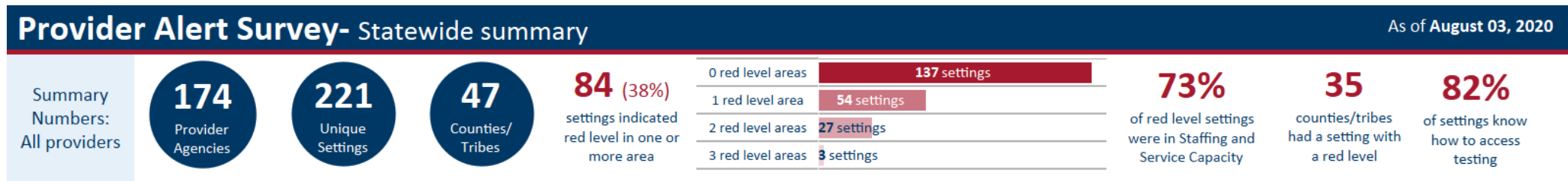
# Overview of COVID Relief Fund (CRF) Proposals

Package of interventions, presented to the Legislative COVID-19 Response Commission (LCRC) on 7/28 and funding initiated on 8/10

1. Isolation Space and Shelter Response (Homelessness/Victim Services) (\$19m)
2. Enhanced Homecare Benefit (\$1m via AAAs)
3. Emergency Temporary Staffing Pool (\$4.6m)
4. MNsure Navigator Fee for COVID Diagnostic Coverage (\$0.2m)
5. Public Transportation/transit for at-risk people with COVID19 (\$0.9m)
6. Emergency Housing Assistance (\$100m)

# Provider Alert Survey and RedCap COVID Crisis Reporting

- DHS survey tool gives a global overview of differing provider settings and their ability to access PPE, mobile testing resources and emergency replacement staffing (up to 14 days)
- RedCAP allows immediate, emergency assistance request to MDH/SEOC with COVID cases or symptoms





# Senior Linkage Line and Disability HUB

## Senior LinkAge Line COVID-19 Support

The [SeniorLinkAge Line](#) provides information and referrals to older adults and their families.

**1-800-333-2433**

**Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care Intake**

**Line: 651-431-2555**

## Disability Hub MN COVID-19 support

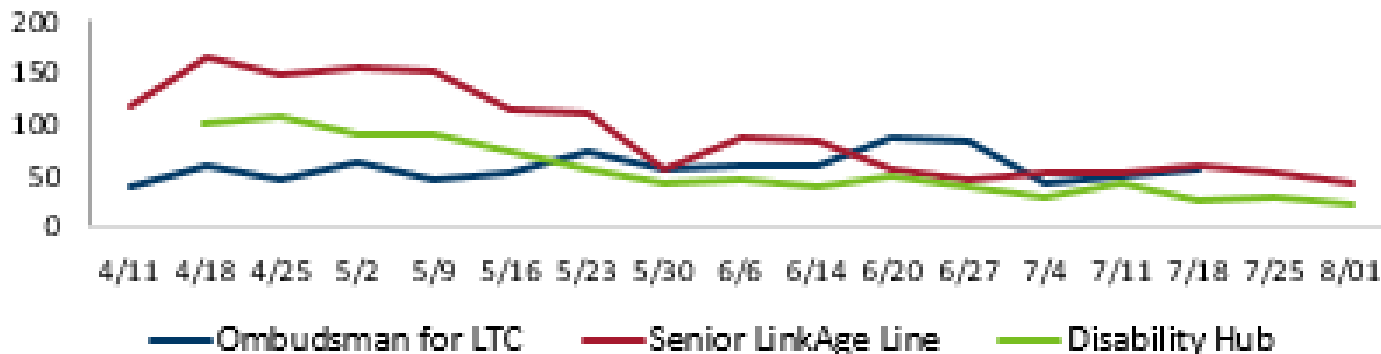
[Disability Hub MN](#) is hosting a Coronavirus resource page for people with disabilities and families.

**1-866-333-2466**

- Health care coverage
- Income
- Home and Community Based Services
- Community resources for supplies, equipment, accessing food and medication
- Housing concerns – eviction, rights, paying rent/mortgage

### Key Metrics

#### Volume of COVID-related calls to universal resource lines



# Older Americans Act Programs & Waiver Programs

- Supporting providers to shift service delivery to:
  - Meal delivery
  - Prescription drug delivery
  - Telephone reassurance
  - Online/phone caregiver consultation and support groups
  - Online health promotion classes
  - Emergency home modifications and outdoor chore

# What's Next?



**MASK DRIVE**

**SEW MASKS**  
this week

**FIRE STATION**  
APRIL 25  
Drop-off masks

**FIRE STATIONS DELIVER MASKS**  
to local congregate living facilities

#MinneSEWtaWeek #StayHomeMadeMN **m** MINNESOTA



**TESTING  
BREAKTHROUGH**

**m** MINNESOTA [mn.gov/covid19](https://mn.gov/covid19)

## Executive Orders from Governor Walz

Please find all Executive Orders issued by Governor Tim Walz.

### Executive Order 20-38

Allowing for Safe Outdoor Recreation

Last Modified: April 17, 2020

### Executive Order 20-37

Extending the Relief from Regulations for Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota Declared in Executive Order 20-06

Last Modified: April 17, 2020

### Executive Order 20-36

Directing Salary Reductions for Certain Officials

Last Modified: April 15, 2020

### Executive Order 20-35

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

Search Document

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Archives

2020

[April](#)

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2019

[RSS feed](#)

# YOU can make a difference during COVID-19

- Help us become a more Age-Friendly State AND respond to this crisis
- Guidance for unpaid caregivers on infection control/dementia care
- Consider policy suggestions for Governor's Age-Friendly Council

The screenshot shows the 'Volunteer to Help' page on the Minnesota COVID-19 Response website. The page features a dark blue header with the 'm' logo and navigation links for 'For Minnesotans', 'For Business and Organizations', 'Data and Statistics', and 'News and Media'. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > For Minnesotans > Volunteer to Help'. A left-hand navigation menu under 'For Minnesotans' includes links for 'About COVID-19', 'Stay Home Order', 'Volunteer to Help' (highlighted), 'Homemade Mask Drive', and 'Medical Reserve Corps'. The main content area is titled 'Volunteer to Help' and contains an introductory paragraph: 'Minnesota needs your help! Whether it's making homemade masks, volunteering for the Medical Reserve Corps, or assisting with procuring personal protective equipment (PPE), there are many ways you can contribute.' Below this are three columns of links: 'Homemade Mask Drive' (with a sub-headline 'Calling all Minnesota crafters, sewers, and creatives! Learn how you can donate homemade masks.'), 'Medical Reserve Corps' (with a sub-headline 'Find out how you can volunteer with the Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps!'), and 'Donate PPE' (with a sub-headline 'Do you work for an organization that has more than 500 pieces of extra PPE? Encourage your organization to donate it!').

<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/volunteer/>



Thank You!

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