Care for Children of Families of Emergency Workers

Under the Governor’s Executive Order 20-02, free school age care for the children of emergency workers (including providers of healthcare, emergency medical services, long-term and post-acute care; law enforcement personnel; personnel providing correctional services; public health employees; firefighters and other first responders; and court personnel) was outlined. The orders directed schools to provide care to, at a minimum, district-enrolled students aged 12 and under.

In order to ensure that we are providing for the needs of our students, we are clarifying the work that falls within each of the identified emergency workers categories.

Additionally, this guidance can be used by child care providers who are willing to prioritize the needs of these workers during this unprecedented emergency.

Emergency Workers in Tier I under the Executive Order

Healthcare personnel

- [UPDATED 03/18/20]: Personnel needed for direct care and critical administrative staff of the personnel needed for direct care
  - Community mental health providers
  - PCA/home health workers
  - Other workers providing direct care in a facility or in a person’s residence
- Long-term facility personnel (full-time and part-time)
  - Group Homes and supportive housing settings
  - Residential Homes
  - Nursing Homes
  - Residential mental health, substance use disorder, pediatric/adolescent residential treatment facilities
- Post-acute Care personnel (full-time and part-time)
  - Long-term hospital
  - In-patient rehabilitation
  - Home Health
  - Skilled nurses
- Home health and personal care attendants (PCAs)
- Adult, adolescent and pediatric residential mental health, behavioral health or substance use disorder treatment facilities, intensive residential treatment services (IRTS), emergency shelters, Health Care for the Homeless providers, and homeless drop-in centers
- MNSure Navigators
- County and tribal financial/eligibility workers for public programs
- State, tribal and county staff in emergency management or health and human services, including case managers and direct service delivery
- County and tribal child welfare
- Pharmacy employees necessary for filling prescriptions
Emergency Medical Services personnel (full-time)
- Paramedics
- EMTs
- Immediate supervisory staff
- EMS Operators and dispatchers
- EMS region medical directors – necessary to make override decisions to direct ambulances to other ERs based on medical needs

Law Enforcement personnel
- Full-time Police Officers and their supervisory staff
- Full-time Sheriffs and their supervisory staff
- Full-time Minnesota DNR sworn conservation officers and their supervisory staff
- Full-time State Patrol Officers and their supervisory staff
- 911 Operators and dispatchers their supervisory staff
- Full-time Investigators (at the discretion of their Agency Chief)

Firefighter personnel
- Full-time firefighters
- Paid on call duty crew

Personnel Providing Correctional Services

Minneapolis Correctional Facility Staff
- Corrections officers
- Correctional Lieutenants
- Correctional Captains
- Physical plant
- Correctional facility case managers
- Correctional facility educators and educational paraprofessionals
- Wardens
- Associate wardens
- Correctional facility office assistants
- Correctional facility nurses and supervisors
- Correctional program therapists
- Correctional facility IT staff
- Correctional facility Human Resources staff
- Correctional facility financial services personnel
- Correctional facility records personnel
- Correctional facility safety officers

Centralized Correctional Operations Personnel
- Medical director
- Director of health services
- Reentry Services personnel
- Policy and legal services personnel
- Offender transportation personnel
• Centralized records personnel
• Centralized human resources personnel
• Investigators - Office of Special Investigations/Professional Accountability
• Minnesota Department of Corrections personnel assigned to Incident Management Team
• Minnesota Department of Corrections personnel assigned to Continuity of Operations team
• Minnesota Department of Corrections government and community relations personnel
• Minnesota Department of Corrections Hearings and Release Unit personnel
• Minnesota Department of Corrections Behavioral Health Unit personnel
• Minnesota Department of Corrections – Communications Unit
• Minnesota Department of Corrections – Office of Commissioner

Minnesota Correctional Supervision Services
• State Probation officers and supervisors
• State Probation agents and supervisors
• State Supervised release agents and supervisors
• State intensive supervised release agents and supervisors
• County Probation officers and supervisors
• County Probation agents and supervisors
• County Supervised release agents and supervisors
• County intensive supervised release agents and supervisors

Public Health Personnel
• State, tribal and local public health employees directly supporting the response of COVID-19 and other infectious disease operations
• State, tribal and local public health officials responding to imminent public health threats
• Newborn health screeners
• State, tribal and local public health lab priority services
• State, city, county and tribal emergency management essential personnel supporting COVID-19

Court Personnel
• Full-time Court personnel

Essential Tier 2 Workers
Beyond the emergency workers listed in the Governor’s Executive Order, there are other critical workers that are absolutely necessary for districts to consider. Care for children of educators, gas and electric utility workers, food distribution personnel, water treatment staff, and others outlined below is essential to ensuring the public continues to receive these vital services.

Districts should make every effort to provide care for school-age children of workers in the areas below, if they are able to do so while adhering to the Minnesota Department of Health’s social distancing guidelines.

• Educators
• Child care workers
• MNDot employees
• State and local essential IT personnel
• Substance disorder treatment workers
• Medical examiners
• National Guard (if activated)

Water Treatment/Wastewater
• Water Treatment Plant Operators
• Drinking water distribution system maintenance workers
• Safe drinking water delivery personnel
• Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators
• Storm and sanitary sewer system maintenance workers

Day-to-Day Operations for Gas and Electric Utilities
• Electric utility lineworkers, substation technicians, meter technicians, dispatchers, power plant operators
• Operations managers and supervisors
• Fleet and maintenance technicians
• Transmission and distribution engineers and operators
• Construction coordinators and technicians
• Fuel technicians
• Relay coordinators
• Control room/center operators
• Cybersecurity related information technology personnel
• Gas safety personnel
• Gas utility operations personnel
• Water system operators, water treatment plant operators
• Wastewater system operators, wastewater treatment plant operators
• Managers with key responsibility for customer and community communications and response

Emergency Response for Gas and Electric Utilities
• Damage assessment personnel
• Engineers
• Safety personnel
• Communications personnel
• Mutual aid crews from other utilities

Food Distribution Workers
[ADDED 03/18/20]: Food Production Personnel

Food Distribution Centers
• Drivers
• Order selectors
• Forklift loaders
• IT personnel
• Mechanics
• Sanitation workers
In-Store Food Personnel
- Store clerks
- Stockers
- Food preparation personnel
- Cleaning staff
- Deli and produce staff

Public Works
- City fleet (emergency equipment, fire trucks, police vehicles, etc.) maintenance workers
- Traffic signal system maintenance workers
- Emergency repair workers for bridges, water and sewer main breaks, and other emergent issues
- Administrative support personnel that ensure OSHA safety requirements and field support for operations
- Snowplow drivers

Solid Waste Management (waste, recyclable/organics)
- Collection, transfer trailer truck drivers and their fleet maintenance crews
- Transfer stations, landfills, resource recovery, recycling and organics facility operations staff
- Heavy equipment operators, facility operators (e.g. scale house operator, loader operator, line operators, boiler operator)
- Environmental systems (e.g. gas and leachate management, pollution control equipment)

Infectious and Hazardous Waste Management
- Infectious and hazardous waste collection personnel
- Infectious facilities operations personnel (e.g. autoclave and incineration operators)
- Hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities operations personnel

Other Shelter Staff and Outreach Workers
- Outreach workers to people experiencing homelessness
- Shelter and drop-in center maintenance, housekeeping and janitorial staff
- Shelter and drop-in center security staff
- Shelter and free meal program food preparation staff
- Domestic violence and victims services shelter staff

Telecommunication Network Operations
- Outside plant technicians for infrastructure restoration
- Install/Repair Technicians for customer premise restoration as needed
- Customer service representatives that interface with customers on service troubles
- Dispatchers involved with service repair and restoration

[ADDED 03/18/20]: State workers essential to the continuation of Minnesota Unemployment Insurance