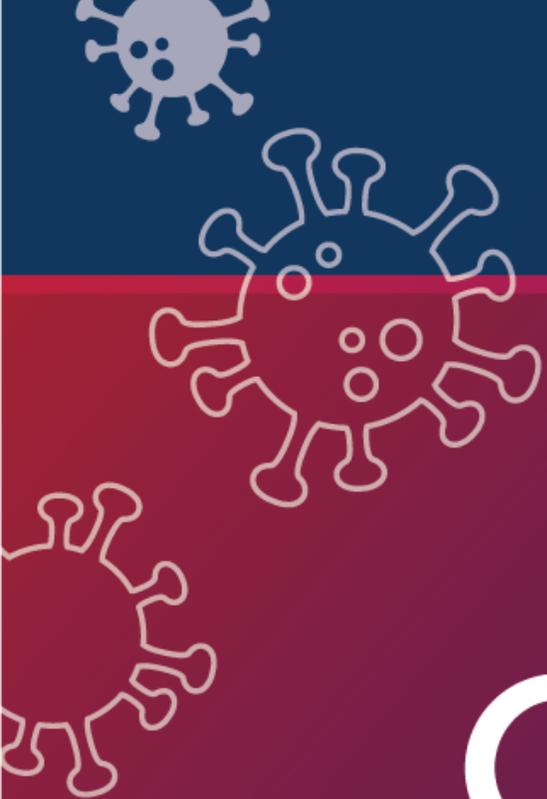


**Together,  
as One Minnesota,  
we can save lives.**



Wednesday, November 18, 2020  
6:00 p.m.

**STAY SAFE MN**



STAY SAFE MN

# COVID-19 Update

Office of Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan

**m** MINNESOTA

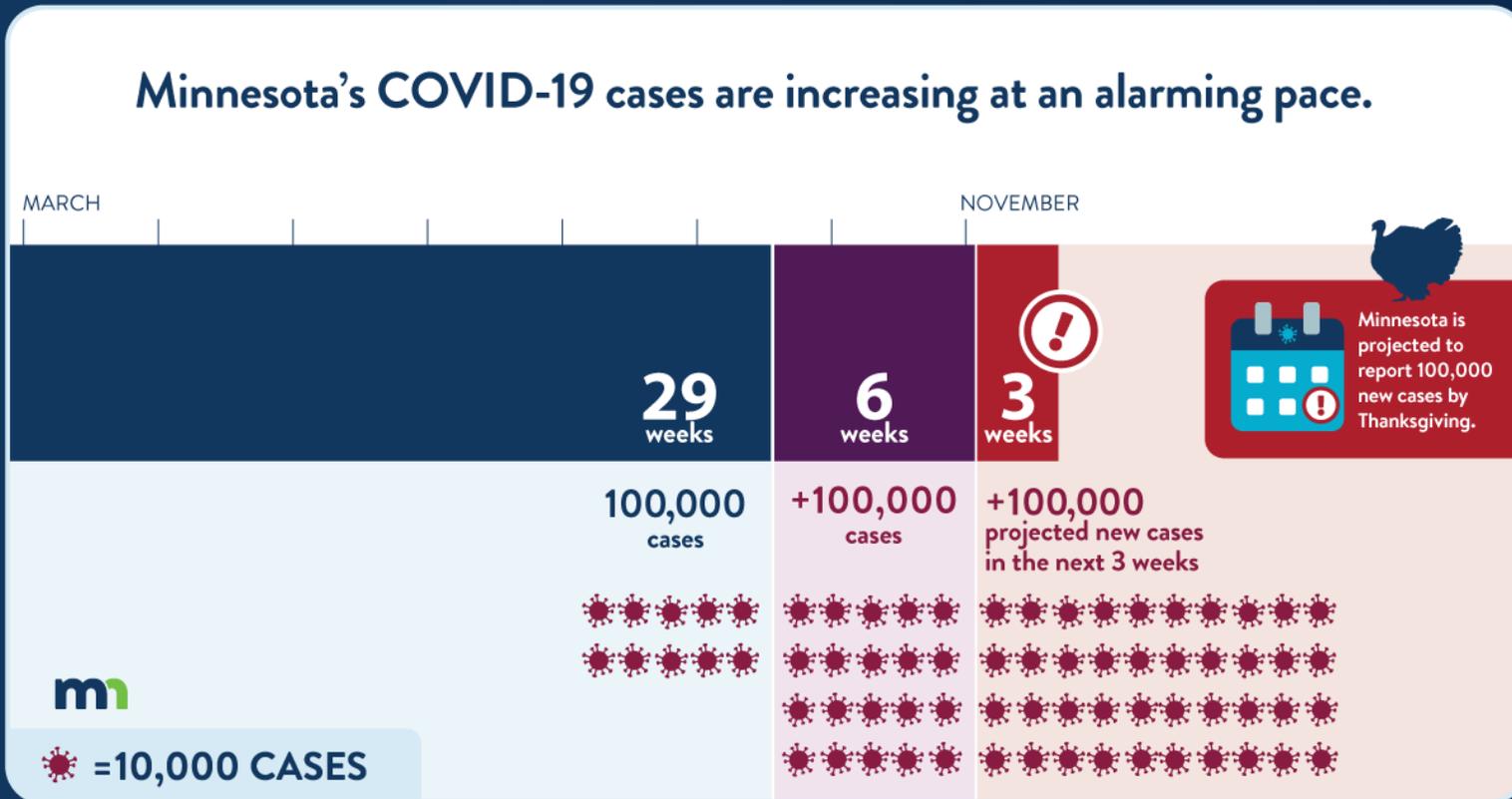
# State of the Pandemic

## COVID-19 pandemic surging across Minnesota and the nation.

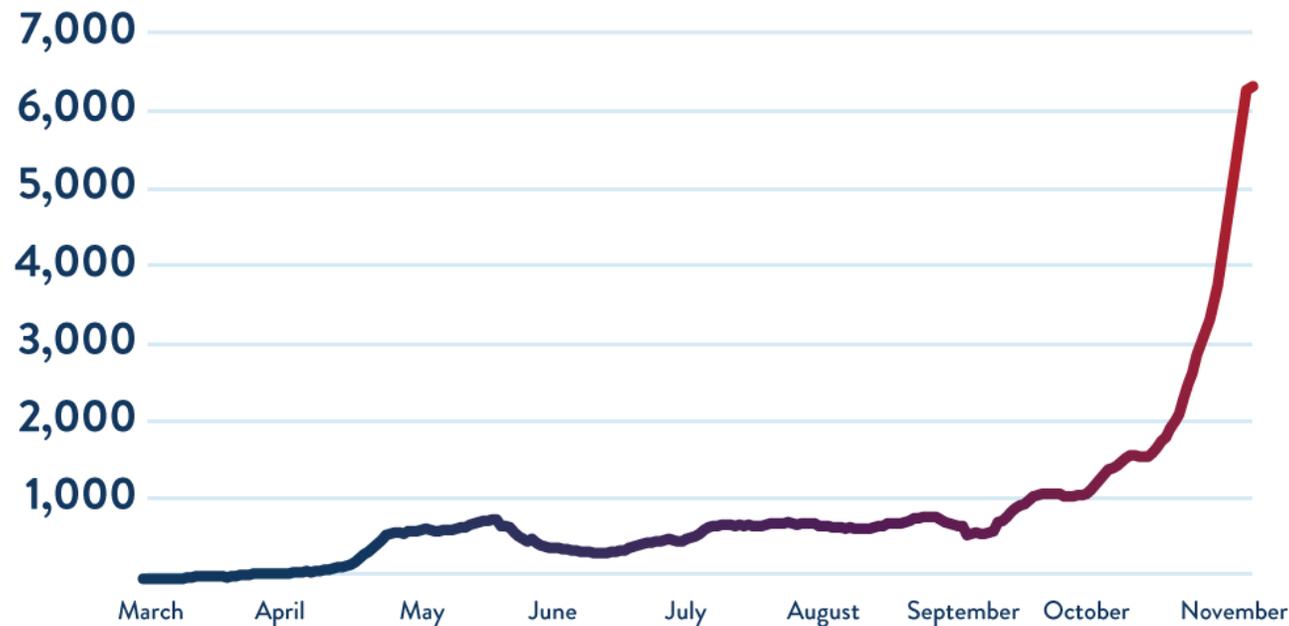
- People are being infected, hospitalized, admitted to the ICU, and are dying at record levels.
- More than one-third of all new COVID-19 infections in Minnesota have no known source.
- COVID-19 now overwhelming our businesses, schools, hospitals, and the congregate care facilities that house our most vulnerable residents.

# The virus is surging again.

Minnesota's COVID-19 cases are increasing at an alarming pace.



# More people infected every week.

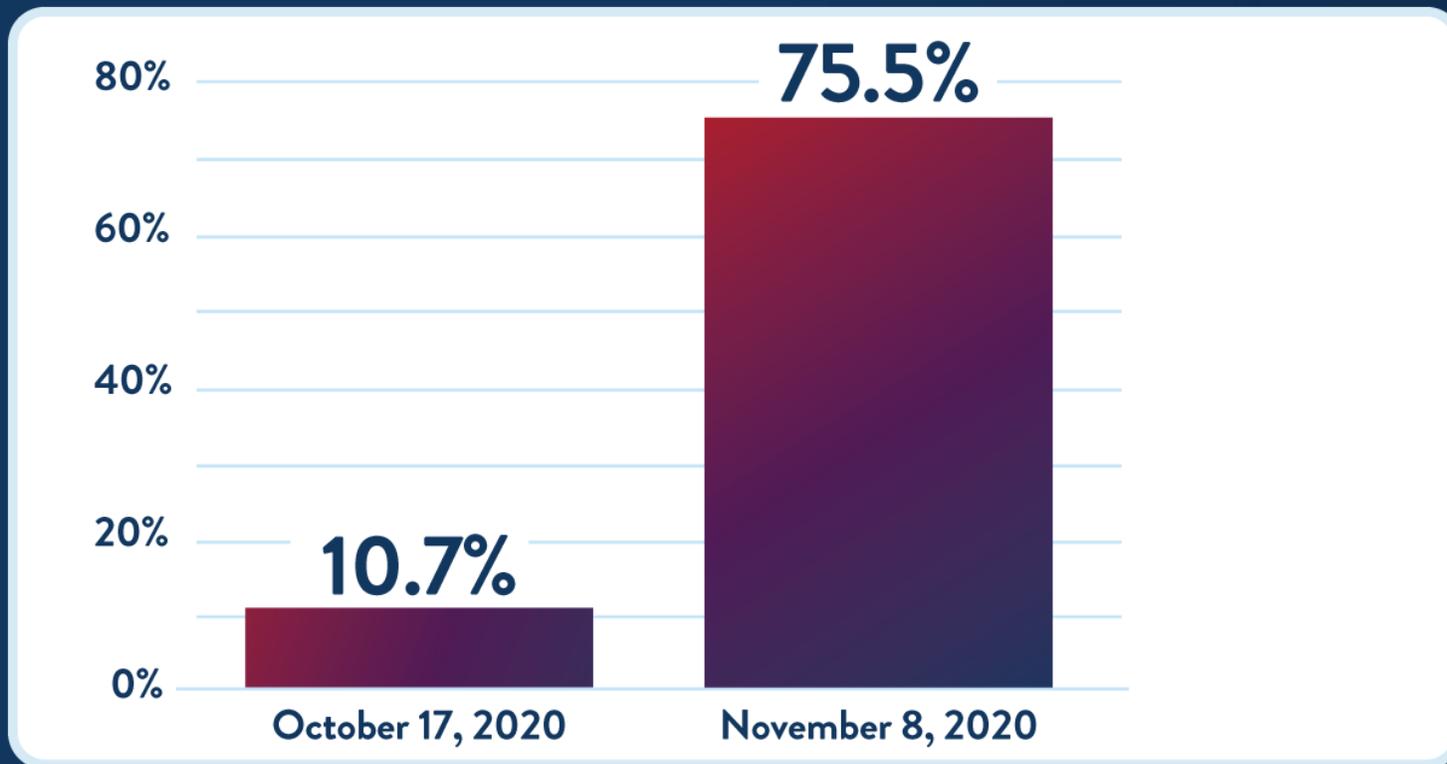


Daily Confirmed Cases  
(7-day rolling average)

Source: MDH Situation Update for COVID-19

# Rate of new infections increasing.

The ground is shifting under our feet each day.

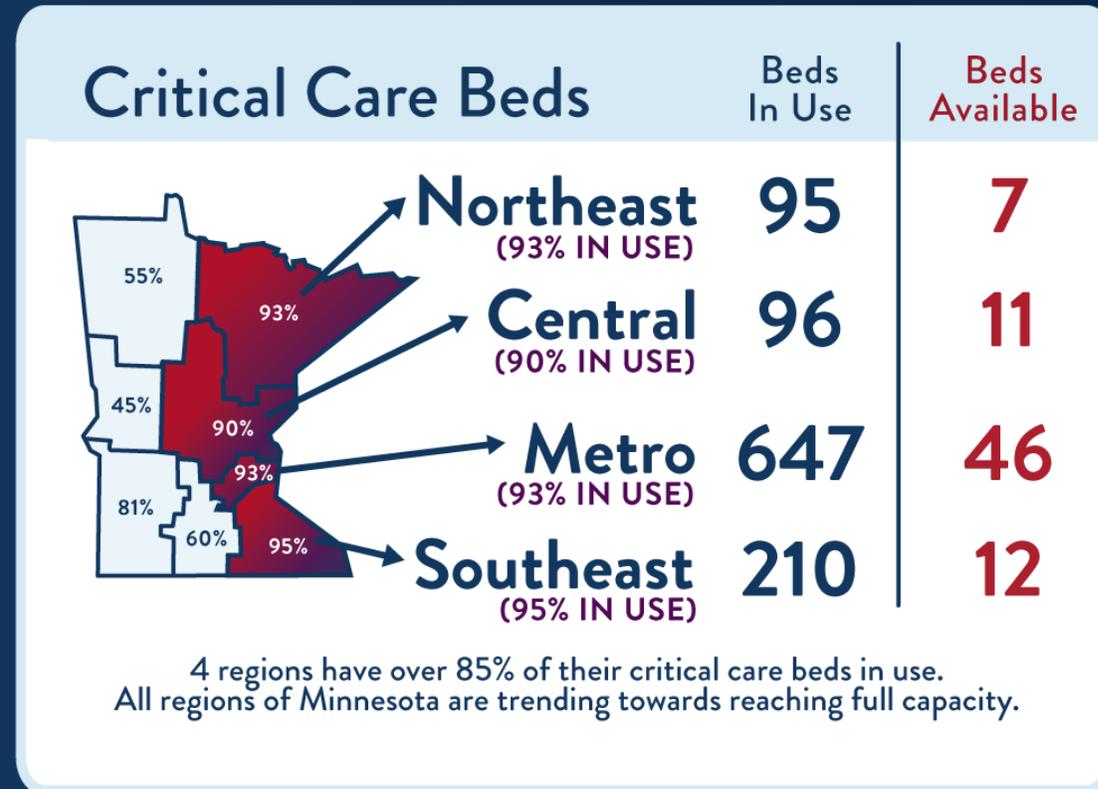


7-day case growth

# Why does COVID-19 surge matter?

## Virus surge has put our hospitals on the verge of dangerous capacity shortages

- Beds across entire hospital systems are filling up.
- Metro and Greater Minnesota.
- Some hospitals nearing the point of turning new patients away – and some already are.



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Hospital Association, Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Last updated Nov. 18, 2020

# Why does the COVID-19 surge matter?

**Front-line workers are getting sick or exposed in the community, jeopardizing care for those who need it most.**

- Hospitals have open beds but staffing shortages mean they can't be used.
- Too many long-term care and nursing home staff are unable to care for those who rely on them.
- And fire and police departments are being hit hard, making it more difficult to respond to calls, and imperiling community safety.

# Why does the COVID-19 surge matter?

## Children and families are bearing the burden of the surge.

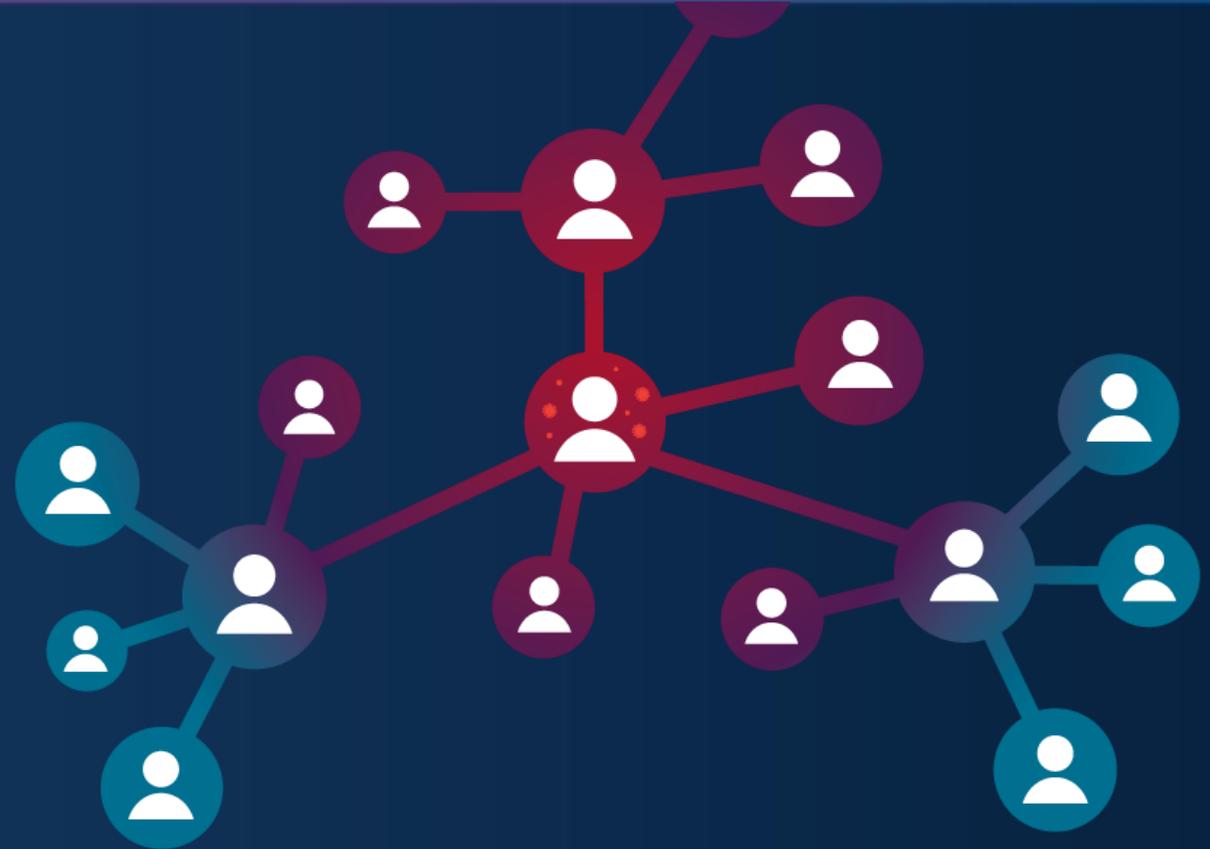
- Teacher and caregiver heroes are getting sick or forced to quarantine.
- Schools can't stay open.
- Families are struggling to find an impossible balance.
- We have to prioritize children, families, and their teachers and caregivers.



# What can we do?

Use the data and the research to understand how COVID-19 is spreading in our communities.

- WHO is at risk? All of us.
- WHEN are we at risk? All the time.
- We now focus on WHERE do we find the most risk.



# What do we know about risk?

**More risky:** Gathering together for long periods of time.

**More risky:** Indoors vs outdoors.

**More risky:** No mask vs masked.

**More risky:** Seated close together for extended periods of time.

# Use our knowledge to reduce risk

## Knowing what creates risk helps us target higher risk areas.

- Getting a haircut, with masks for all, & protective equipment for employees, carries lower risk.
- Shopping in a grocery or retail store, with a mask and socially distanced, carries lower risk.
- Get-togethers with friends, seated, unmasked for periods of time while eating/drinking, carries more risk – whether at a restaurant or in your own home.

# Time to Dial Back, Minnesota



## Dial back to save lives

Restrictions begin on  
Friday, November 20 at 11:59 pm



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# We've done it before. Time to do it again.

In the spring, I asked and you responded.  
We stayed home to build capacity.

- Frontline workers are getting the PPE they need.
- Our hospitals managed the demand.
- Minnesota is a national leader in testing.

The virus stayed under control through the summer and fall. But that has changed.



# Pause to save lives.

## What activities and establishments are paused?

- Social gathering with other households
- In-person dining
- Adult and youth sports, fitness gyms, and other activities that bring people together
- Bowling alleys, bingo halls, theaters
- Receptions, private parties, other celebrations
- Outdoor events and entertainment



Any social gatherings  
outside of your household

# What we can still do.

## What's still open?

- Schools still follow Safe Learning plan – look to local districts for learning model.
- Child care providers can remain open.
- You can still get groceries, shop for the holidays, and get takeout for supper.
- Places of worship are not impacted.
- You can still go to the salon or barber shop.
- Get outside and enjoy the outdoors.



Stay home when you're able.  
Only gather with your  
immediate household.

# Bridge to Better Times

**We will take strong steps to slow the spread of COVID-19.**

- This is hard.
- You've given up so much, and now we're asking more.



# Thank you

STAY SAFE **MN**