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# STATE of MINNESOTA





### DEPARTMENT

## TIM PAWLENTY GOVERNOR

#### **EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 09-07**

#### PROVIDING FOR FACILITATION OF HEALTH CARE AND RELATED SERVICES DURING PEACETIME EMERGENCY

I, TIM PAWLENTY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, including Minnesota Statutes 2008, Chapter 12, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, flooding has affected the population of West Central Minnesota; resulting in the Governor's declaration on March 20, 2009, of a peacetime state of emergency (Executive Order 09-05); and

WHEREAS ensuring an immediate response that will both protect the life and safety of persons in the affected area, including Wilkin, Clay, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Kittson, and Traverse Counties, and protect property and infrastructure from additional damage requires that the resources of local, county, and state governments be fully used; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Health anticipates that hospitals in Southwest, West Central, and Northwest regions of the state might exceed their capacity to treat additional patients with the beds, personnel and supplies they have available; and

WHEREAS, the evacuation of the Eventide Nursing Home in Moorhead, other foreseeable patient transfers, and transport difficulties from the rising flood levels have exceeded medical transport capacities and required that care be given in temporary care facilities in the West Central Region, and patients may also need to be relocated for care to other parts of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Health anticipates there might be a shortage of health care, other health-related, and veterinary professionals to meet the needs of the emergency; and WHEREAS, as a result, there is a need to operate temporary care facilities to provide care to persons already affected or soon to be affected by this emergency.

#### NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby find that:

- 1. The number of chronically or seriously ill or injured persons requiring transportation because of flooding-related evacuations has exceeded medical transport capacity in the West Central Region and might soon exceed the medical transport capacity in the Southwest and Northwest Regions. The number of seriously or chronically ill or injured persons might also exceed emergency hospital capacity in the Southwest, West Central, and Northwest regional hospital systems, and as a result care for ill or injured persons in those regions might need to be given in temporary care facilities; and
- 2. The expected course of the flooding might also result in seriously ill or injured persons exceeding the emergency hospital or medical transport capacity in other regions of Minnesota; and
- 3. Health care, other health-related, and veterinary professionals might be overwhelmed by the number of seriously ill or injured persons or animals who are in need of medical attention.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order, under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, sections 12.42 and 12.61, that:

- 1. Having declared a state of emergency under Minnesota Statutes, section 12.31, I authorize under Minnesota Statutes, section 12.61, subdivision 2, state and local government entities and licensed facilities to establish and operate temporary care facilities to treat the ill and injured persons displaced by the flood.
- 2. Retroactive to March 20, 2009, this Emergency Executive Order under Minnesota Statutes, section 12.61, subdivision 2, is in effect and continues in effect in the Southwest, West Central, and Northwest hospital regions as defined in Minnesota Statutes.
- 3. For all other hospital regions in Minnesota not included in paragraph 2, I hereby authorize the Commissioner of Health to determine if the conditions in section 12.61, subdivision 2(a), have been met.
- 4. As provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 12.61, subdivision 2(b), during the effective period of this Emergency Executive Order, a responder in any impacted region acting consistent with emergency plans is not liable for civil damages or administrative sanctions for acts or omissions by that responder in rendering good-faith emergency care, advice, or assistance. This section does not apply in case of malfeasance in office or willful or wanton actions.

- 5. Individuals who hold a license, certificate, or other permit to provide health care, other health-related services, or veterinary services issued by a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, or province of Canada, may render aid involving those skills in Minnesota, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 12.42.
- 6. Individuals holding non-Minnesota licenses, certificates, or other permits may render aid under this Emergency Executive Order only by agreement with Minnesota health care providers or under the direction of Minnesota state, county, or municipal incident command.
- 7. Retroactive to March 20, 2009, this Emergency Executive Order under Minnesota Statutes, section 12.42 is in effect and continues in effect.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 4.035, subdivision 2; 12.31, subdivision 2; 12.61, subdivision 2; and 12.42, this Emergency Executive Order is effective on the dates stated and shall remain in effect until the conclusion of the emergency or until rescinded, superseded, or as otherwise provided by Minnesota law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 26th day of March, 2009.

TIM PAWLENTY

Governor

Filed According to Law: al dal

MARK RITCHIE Secretary of State

