

# SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

*Values. Ethics. Advocacy.*

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**CONTACT:**

Elizabeth Reiss  
Director of Communications  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
[ereiss@sdsma.org](mailto:ereiss@sdsma.org)

**SDSMA continues to call for stay-at-home order, workplace safety protocols in light of new COVID-19 outbreak**

*SDSMA statement attributable to Dr. Robert Summerer, SDSMA president:*

The SDSMA continues to call on Gov. Kristi Noem to issue a statewide stay-home order and require the closure of non-essential businesses.

State, local and public health leaders must work with the essential businesses that remain open to ensure public health and safety. The SDSMA is concerned that some employers have not acted quickly enough to protect workers. The documented reports of significant spreading within a workplace in Sioux Falls this week shows why it is so important for all employers – especially those part of the critical infrastructure and the food supply chain – to have protocols in place that protect their workers and consumers and that follow CDC guidelines:

- Have employees stay home or send home employees who are feeling sick.
- Keep track of who sick employees came into contact with while they were symptomatic and two days prior to that. Anyone who was within 6 feet of sick individuals during that period should be considered exposed.
- For those exposed, the CDC provides additional precautions for critical infrastructure employees. Those include pre-screening before starting work and regular monitoring, wearing a face mask while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure, and maintaining 6 feet distance from others.
- Properly clean and disinfect workplace surfaces.

The full document containing these and additional CDC guidelines and precautions for critical infrastructure can be found on the CDC website [here](#).