# **COVID-19 Preparedness Plan**

## Purpose

This plan outlines BWSR's approach to returning employees to office locations while taking account of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## Introduction and Background

BWSR is committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment to all employees and partners. This plan implements Minnesota OSHA Standards and MDH and CDC Guidelines in its workplaces. All work must be conducted in a manner that adheres to Minnesota OSHA Standards and MDH and CDC Guidelines, including social distancing and hygiene practices.

Executive Order 20-48 directs employers to establish a Preparedness Plan for returning employees to workplace locations. Under the direction of Minnesota Management and Budget, agency plans must establish policies and procedures to screen for health, prevent sick workers from entering an office, and maintain safe working environments.

The goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19, which requires full cooperation among staff by following:

- Hygiene and respiratory guidelines
- Social distancing
- Housekeeping-cleaning, disinfecting and decontamination
- Identification and isolation of sick persons
- Communication and training that will be provided to all staff

Any questions on this document should be directed to Mary Norton, BWSR Facilities Coordinator: <u>mary.norton@state.mn.us</u>

#### **Current Status**

As of June 5, 2020:

- Any state worker who can work at home must continue to do so (per Executive Order 20-56).
- BWSR staff must have an exemption for any in person meetings, field site visits, or office work.

This plan will be updated as needed, including a specific timeline for a phased return to work locations.

# Contents

| Employee Responsibilities                                      |
|--|
| Exemptions to Telework   |
| Considerations for Employee Return to Offices                  |
| Scheduling Approach  |
| Health Screening   |
| Social Distancing Guidelines5                                  |
| Worker Hygiene Guidelines                                      |
| Cleaning Guidelines  |
| Field Site Visit Practices                                     |
| Confirmed COVID-19 Worker                                      |
| Implementation: Staff Communication and Training7              |
| Appendices   |
| Appendix I: Preparedness Plan certification and signatures9    |
| Appendix II: Field Site Visit Determination and Preparation10  |
| Appendix III: Disinfecting Wipes and Hand Sanitizer            |
| Appendix IV: Exemption Procedures                              |
| Appendix V: Return to Work Location Checklist                  |
| Appendix VI: Remote Health Screening Procedure for Employees23 |

# **Employee Responsibilities**

Employees are responsible for following this plan. Staff should take specific note to review the Tennessen Notice found in the Health Screening chapter.

Employees, as assigned or directed, shall help develop and respond to telework planning and return-towork planning, tracking, and reporting requests of their supervisor.

Employees shall track COVID-19 related time worked and/or COVID-19 leave consistent with BWSR guidance or administrative procedures.

Employees who fail to follow the plan could be subject to disciplinary action.

Employees can receive support available through the state Employee Assistance Program, Life Matters, at; 651-259-3840 or 1-800-657-3719 or www.mylifematters.com (password:stmn1).

# **Exemptions to Telework**

Until the **current status** (page 1) states otherwise, BWSR requires all staff to telework unless they've obtained an exemption.

Exemptions may be granted for specific and justified reasons (such as if staff are performing essential work, may need one-time visits to pick up work or equipment, may need to use printers/plotters, necessary field site visits and necessary in person meetings). Supervisors must request an exemption per person (see Appendix IV: Exemption Procedures)

# Considerations for Employee Return to Offices

The following list outlines the priorities BWSR will consider when identifying employees to return to the offices:

- Those whose jobs are not conducive to telework full or part-time.
- Those with jobs that can be done using social distancing and other risk mitigation strategies.
- Those with telework problems (e.g., IT issues, poor internet connection, self-identified with home distractions).
- Those providing backup and relief for others who must be in the office.
- Those whose work hours can be staggered to decrease interaction between employees.

# Scheduling Approach

Employee schedules for office, field sites, and/or in-person meetings may need to be developed with a staggered or other time schedule to accommodate health and safety considerations.

The BWSR Facilities Coordinator will develop space plans per location to best meet health and safety expectations.

Employees are expected to work the hours and locations specified, but may request amended hours and must obtain supervisor approval before working outside the normal work schedule and the updated staggered, or flex schedules that are currently in place. Pre-approval for shift differential and overtime still apply.

Supervisors will consult with the Facilities Coordinator on changes to the office-location schedule. The agency may not be able to accommodate all employee scheduling requests. Business needs may require a supervisor to change schedules such as times and/or days of in- office work.

Employees instructed to return to the workplace must return to the workplace. Supervisors may consult directly with Human Resources for advice on how to have conversation with employees fearful of or that refuse to return to work.

# Health Screening

All employees must self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.

#### These symptoms may include:

- Temperature >100.4 degrees F
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fever
- Chills

- Headache
- Sore throat
- Muscle pain
- Loss of taste or smell

Employees experiencing any of the above symptoms while at home should remain at home and not report to any office location nor field site. Any employee who begins experiencing symptoms should leave the office or field site immediately.

Additionally, employees who work outside their home (office or field site visit) shall take their temperature at the beginning of each day of office or field work. Each BWSR office has access to a non-touch thermometer. Before entering any BWSR office building or any Field Visits, exempt staff are **required** to take the on-line or call-in Health Screening, **Appendix VI**. All information is kept confidential and only BWSR's approved Power BI user, HR staff and Executive Management have access to this information. (Please read Tennessen Notice)

NOTE: BWSR has offices in private commercial buildings as well as co-located with other state agencies. BWSR will provide additional guidance, as necessary, if health screening guidelines differ per location.

#### **Tennessen Notice**

Prior to entering the Admin workplaces, all individuals will be asked a series of questions. This data is classified as private under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. We will use this data to screen individuals seeking admission to Admin workplaces for potential health risks to try to avoid the potential of spreading contagious diseases. The data helps us to determine whether risk factors are present and whether you will be denied admission for the protection of agency staff and/or the public. This is not a COVID-19 test and is not a determination of whether an individual is infected with or has been exposed to COVID-19. This data will be gathered and reviewed by agency team members, including non-medical personnel, in deciding whether to permit you admission to the BWSR workplace. You are not legally required to provide this data and providing the data is voluntary. However, if you refuse to provide the data, you will not be admitted to the BWSR workplace. The data collected from you may be shared with agency team members collecting the data, agency HR staff, the agency safety administrator, agency management, and other persons or entities authorized by law.

# Social Distancing Guidelines

Social distancing means avoiding large gatherings, small enclosed spaces, and maintaining a distance of at least 6-feet from others. MMB will work with agencies to determine when state employees can return to work locations on a regular basis and at a capacity that can still maintain social distancing,

In office practices:

- staggered work schedule for each location. (staff will be scheduled on an every-other day work schedule to adhere to the 6' distancing guidelines).
- limiting in-person meetings, meeting for lunch in a break room and large work-related gatherings.
- conference room chairs shifted in order to provide the safe 6-foot distance.
- masks should be worn if social distancing practices cannot be maintained, such as in an elevator, hallways, or small room. Masks can be provided for staff that are returning to the workplace if the staff does not have access to one.

Employees and visitors are prohibited from gathering in groups and in confined areas where social distancing requirements can't be met, including elevators, and from using other employees' personal protective equipment, phones, computer equipment, desks, cubicles, workstations, offices and other personal work tools and equipment.

In common use copy and multi-function device rooms, mail rooms, and supply rooms, employees must wait until the room is empty before entering and must wipe any touched surfaces with disinfectant prior to leaving the room. Employees should submit a request to the BWSR Facilities Planner if additional disinfectant is needed in each area.

Employees should talk to their supervisor if they are uncomfortable with the social distancing or other requirements in their work location. Supervisors may adjust work schedules or submit a request to the BWSR Facilities Planner about additional measures that may be considered (e.g., taping distances on the floor, additional barriers or relocation to a different workstation).

# Worker Hygiene Guidelines

BWSR will work with office building landlords and co-located tenants to ensure that hand hygiene and signs are available in each location. This will include sinks with soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Employees returning to the workplace are instructed to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer routinely throughout the day, especially at the beginning and end of their shift, after using community areas (e.g., conference rooms, mail rooms, copy facilities, etc.) and/or appliances (e.g., copiers, shared keyboards and equipment, elevators and elevator buttons), prior to any mealtimes, and after using the bathroom.

**Proper hand hygiene:** Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

# **Cleaning Guidelines**

To help minimize the spread of the virus, follow the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for cleaning and disinfecting our workplace.

- **Disinfect thoroughly**. Areas to clean include telephone, table, desk, mouse, keyboard, arms of chairs and other frequently touched and shared items. Ensure electronic devices are turned off and/or disconnected before using disinfecting wipes. Do not use on your monitor or touch screens.
- **Clean surfaces before disinfecting**. For visibly soiled surfaces, saturate a paper towel with soap and water but not so much that it is dripping. Clean off excess dirt before using the disinfecting wipes.
- **Don't use the nitrile gloves unless recommended by the wipe manufacturer.** Nitrile gloves are in short supply nationwide. To help conserve them, please refrain from using them unless the disinfecting container instructions state to do so.
- **Don't use the wipes on your skin.** Disinfecting wipes should not be used to clean or sanitize your skin.
- Wash your hands after disinfecting activity. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds following cleaning or disinfecting activity.

When disinfecting wipes are not available, you should use bottled disinfectant and paper towels. **Do not use on computer or touch screens!** It could damage them. Follow the MNIT disinfection guidelines for electronics at the following Link: <a href="https://mn.gov/mnit/media/blog/#/detail/appId/1/id/424345">https://mn.gov/mnit/media/blog/#/detail/appId/1/id/424345</a> for computer monitors and touch screens. It is acceptable to use the disinfectant that has been sprayed in a cloth or paper towel on mice, keyboards and computer on/off buttons.

# Field Site Visit Practices

For field practices, please see Appendix II for field site visit expectations for BWSR staff.

# Confirmed COVID-19 Worker

When there has been a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, BWSR will take the following actions, as directed by MMB and following CDC guideline:

- Immediately leave the premises.
- Notify your supervisor.
- Contact Human Resources to self-report (or report) the occurrence. Dontelle Hosley - 651-259-5310, <u>dontelle.hosley@state.mn.us</u>
- Human Resources will provide detailed next steps including:
  - Appropriate notification of the Minnesota Department of Health.
  - Immediate notification to the Facilities Coordinator to close off the area(s) used by the sick person location of the office or cubicle, rest rooms, building entrances, cafeterias, etc.
  - The Facilities Coordinator will determine, with other facilities leaders as appropriate, if the Agency will disinfect the affected area on its own, by contract, or if the Agency will isolate the area for seven (7) days.
  - The Facilities Coordinator will notify the Assistant Director of Strategy and Operations, the identified building contact, and the Landlord of the incident and the actions that will be taken.

Mary Norton, Facilities Coordinator, <u>651-370-3159/mary.norton@state.mn.us</u>. If the facilities coordinator is not available, HR will contact Angie Becker Kudelka, Assistant Director, 612-616-5112, <u>angie.beckerkudelka@state.mn.us</u>.

# Implementation: Staff Communication and Training

- 1. The COVID 19 Preparedness Plan will be communicated electronically and verbally typically via an all staff Skype meeting.
- 2. Staff will receive related training.
- 3. Ongoing informational communications will be implemented as the information changes.
- 4. Signage for social distancing guidelines will be placed in the entrance of each BWSR space. Every printer/scanner will have cleaning guidelines in place.
- 5. Workstation cleaning guidelines will be emailed to each staff member for placement in their workstations or offices.
- 6. Hallway and conference rooms will have signs placed about social distancing, hand hygiene and face mask guidelines.
- 7. Partners and Visitors may have additional restrictions to enter offices. Those will be outlined for specific locations.
- 8. Supervisors will monitor these plans and ensure that all BWSR staff are following the guidelines of this plan.

# Appendices

Appendix I: Preparedness Plan Certification and Signatures

Appendix II: Field Site Visit Determination and Preparation

Appendix III: Disinfecting Wipes and Hand Sanitizer

Appendix IV: Exemption Procedures

Appendix V: Return to Work-location Checklist

Appendix VI: Health Screening for Exempt Employees



# Internal Administrative Policies and Procedures

# Appendix I: Preparedness Plan certification and signatures

I certify the BWSR has protocols in place to comply with executive orders allowing the safe return of employees to the workplace. By signing this certification, I attest the BWSR has followed all applicable guidance in this document and has communicated or will communicate all relevant standards and policies to employees before they return or immediately as they return to the workplace.

the Joschka

**BWSR Executive Director** 

Date: 07-17-20

Angis Loch fill

**BWSR** Assistant Director

Date: 07-17-20

# STAY SAFE

# Internal Administrative Policies and Procedures

# Appendix II: Field Site Visit Determination and Preparation

April 27, 2020 – effectively immediately until further notice. This document applies only to BWSR staff who have received an MMB exemption for field site visits. After reading the Field Site Visit requirements and prior to implementation, you must contact your supervisor by email and indicate you understand the expectations for all field site work and will abide by these requirements.

### 1. Determination for Field Site visit and prep work:

- Obtain supervisor approval for each site visit.
- Prioritize sites based on proximity and urgency. (BWSR must minimize field site visits and field work only to identified necessary site visits.)
- Eliminate all overnight trips.
- Do not enter offices unless necessary for equipment/keys.
- Plan on visits that minimize staff presence at field site locations while maintaining necessary safety and operational requirements.

## 2. Transportation and State-Owned Vehicles prep:

- Each vehicle (state or personal) <u>must</u> have: Disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer.
- Take individual transportation (no carpooling)
- Wipe down steering wheel, knobs mirror, seat buckle, door handles/locks, or anything else that may be touched both at beginning of vehicle use and each time the car is entered.
- If gasoline is needed, wear gloves to pump the gas.

#### 3. On Site Compliance:

- Maintain site-based social distancing of greater than 6 feet at all times.
- Do not share paperwork, equipment, etc.
- Wear gloves on site; wear face masks (non-medical grade) if practical.
- If anyone else on site shows signs of illness (e.g. coughing), please leave the area.
- Avoid touching phone/laptop until immediately after you use hand sanitizer.

## 4. Concluding field work:

- Wipe down all vehicle surfaces touched; disinfect all tools before storage especially handles, disinfect all other site equipment (pens, clipboard, phones, etc.)
- Log each day that includes a field visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C19\_Office\_Visits

To avoid unnecessary occurrences/visits to the office, employees with field site exemption may be allowed to keep work vehicles at their place of residence if all the following conditions apply:

- Employee has their own assigned vehicle or has scheduled use of a group vehicle for an extended period of days
- Employee has a safe place/location in which to keep the vehicle overnight
- Employee must safely secure the vehicle and associated field equipment if kept overnight

Supervisor approval required. During this intern COVID-19 related policy, employees do not have to report overnight usage of vehicle on their timesheet reporting ("CAR").

# STAY SAFE

# Internal Administrative Policies and Procedures

# Appendix III: Disinfecting Wipes and Hand Sanitizer

April 27, 2020 - Covid-19 precautions have changed some of the routines we have at BWSR related to field work. Care must be taken to disinfect vehicles and equipment before and after use. Therefore, we need to make sure BWSR Fleet Vehicles and personal vehicles used for state business are equipped with hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.

Supplies of these products are low across Minnesota. Over the past 4 weeks we have not been able to procure these products using our usual state contracts and other online retailers. As a result, our agency has two options.

# To wait until these supplies are delivered before starting field work To make our own products (or procure locally as available) now

We believe our best option is finding supplies locally, near fleet vehicle locations. In many areas, retailers are out of these products. If this is the case in your area, we've included recipes for making your own. We know this isn't an ideal solution, but having the cars equipped with these products is essential for BWSR staff to be able to conduct field work.

Our expectation is these products must be **properly labeled and secured at all times**, including when children are in personal vehicles.

#### How to purchase

You are authorized to purchase hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes (or the supplies to make them) and submit as a business expense. Please coordinate with others in your office location to most efficiently create your supplies.

Please fil out and attach the following form to your business expense. Then, please title your business expense description **COVID Supply. O**nly include covid-related materials in the reimbursement request. If you have non-covid items during the same time frame, please fill out a separate business expense.

| Expense Group                | *Start Date: | Ħ | *End Date:      |
|------------------------------|--------------|---|-----------------|
| ID:<br>*Expense Description: | COVID Supply |   | Expense Status: |

# COVID-19 Emergency Purchase Business Expense Form

Please attach this form to your business expense, along with your receipts



| Staff Requestor Name:       |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Date:                       |  |
| Field office base location: |  |
| Vendor/Store Name:          |  |

Store Address:

| Item Number<br>if known   | Description | Quantity  | Price per<br>Unit | Total Price |
|---|-------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
|   |             |           |                   |             |
|   |             |           |                   |             |
|   |             |           |                   |             |
|   |             |           |                   |             |
|   |             |           |                   |             |
| Fiscal Staff- Use this funding string:<br>1000 R9P32ADM R9PADM0 Statewide Cost Code C19 |             | Subtotal: |                   |             |
|   |             | Sale      | s tax:            |             |
|   |             | Ship      | ping:             |             |
|   |             | то        | TAL:              |             |

Supervisors – Please review all purchases before approving in self-service.

# Possible locations for purchasing supplies (supplies vary, call first)

| Walmart Supercenter #3233<br>2025 Paul Bunyan Drive NW<br>Bemidji, MN 56601  | (218) 755-6120   |
|--|--|
| <u>Ace Hardware</u><br>14506 State Highway 6<br>Brainerd, MN 56401-2922  | (218) 829-5476   |
| <u>L&amp;M Fleet Supply</u><br>1100 US-59<br>Detroit Lakes, MN 56501   | (218) 847-1171   |
| <u>Vikre Distillery</u><br>525 Lake Avenue South Ste. 102<br>Duluth, MN 55802  | (218) 481-7401   |
| Drummers Garden Center & Floral<br>281 Saint Andrews Drive<br>Mankato, MN 56001  | (507) 388-4877   |
| Ace Home & Hardware<br>500 N US-59<br>Marshall, MN 56258   | (507) 532-3296   |
| Loon Liquor Company<br>1325 Armstrong Road<br>Northfield, MN 55057   | (507) 403-0178<br>Thursday-Friday 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.  |
| OfficeMax<br>2530 Division Street West<br>St. Cloud, MN 56301  | (320) 253-0314   |
| Copperwing Distillery<br>6409 Cambridge Street<br>Saint Louis Park, MN 55426<br>info@copperwingdistillery.com (email for sanitizer info) | (612) 293-6157<br>Wed – Friday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.  |
| Runnings<br>3031 S 1 <sup>st</sup> Street<br>Willmar, MN 56201   | (320) 235-1325   |
| Office Depot<br>1901 South First Street<br>Willmar, MN 56201   | (320) 235-4704   |
|  | 2025 Paul Bunyan Drive NW<br>Bemidji, MN 56601<br>Ace Hardware<br>14506 State Highway 6<br>Brainerd, MN 56401-2922<br>L&M Fleet Supply<br>1100 US-59<br>Detroit Lakes, MN 56501<br>Vikre Distillery<br>525 Lake Avenue South Ste. 102<br>Duluth, MN 55802<br>Drummers Garden Center & Floral<br>281 Saint Andrews Drive<br>Mankato, MN 56001<br>Ace Home & Hardware<br>500 N US-59<br>Marshall, MN 56258<br>Loon Liquor Company<br>1325 Armstrong Road<br>Northfield, MN 55057<br>OfficeMax<br>2530 Division Street West<br>St. Cloud, MN 56301<br>Copperwing Distillery<br>6409 Cambridge Street<br>Saint Louis Park, MN 55426<br>info@copperwingdistillery.com (email for sanitizer info)<br>Runnings<br>3031 S 1 <sup>st</sup> Street<br>Willmar, MN 56201<br>Office Depot<br>1901 South First Street |

#### Make your own Hand Sanitizer and Disinfecting Wipes

If you are unable to find hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes, you may choose to make your own.

#### Hand Sanitizer

#### Items you will need:

isopropyl alcohol (91%),

aloe vera gel,

plastic funnel,

several clean, empty bottles for use. (such as travel supply sizes)

You may optionally add a few drops of essential oils such as clove, thyme, or eucalyptus.

#### To make the sanitizer:

**Step 1:** Wipe down your workspace with a diluted bleach solution and thoroughly wash your hands and all equipment before you begin

**Step 2:** Mix two parts (91%) isopropyl alcohol with one-part Aloe Vera gel. For example: 2/3 cup of isopropyl alcohol to 1/3 cup of Aloe Vera gel.

**Step 3:** Mix with a spoon then beat with a whisk to combine into a gel. Pour into easy to use container. Do not touch the mixture with your hands until it is thoroughly mixed and ready to use.

**Step 4:** After application, rub hands thoroughly together for at least 60 seconds or until your hands are dry.

For large batch hand sanitizer please see the World Health Organizations (WHO) formula.

#### **Disinfecting Wipes**

#### Items you will need:

paper towels (preferably higher quality ones),

an airtight container large enough to fit half of a roll of paper towels,

bleach,

distilled water.

#### To make the wipes:

Step 1: Cut your paper towel roll in half with a serrated knife and place into your airtight container.

**Step 2:** Carefully mix four teaspoons of bleach with one quart of water. For a larger batch mix one third cup per gallon of water.

**Step 3:** Pour the mixture evenly over the paper towels in the container. Your towels should be soaked and can sit in a bit of liquid. Too much liquid will disintegrate your paper towels.

**Step 4:** Pull out the center roll from your paper towels and pull towels from the center. Wipe down surfaces and ensure a minimum contact time of one minute or let air dry.

This solution works well for non-porous surfaces. You may add lemon juice or a bit of essential oils for fragrance if desired. **DO NOT** mix bleach with ammonia or other cleaning agents!

For a quick disinfecting spray take a bottle of <u>at least 70%</u> isopropyl alcohol and put a spray nozzle on top. Please visit the CDC website for information on cleaning and disinfection guidance.



## **Internal Administrative Policies and Procedures**

# Appendix IV: Exemption Procedures

| Purpose:          | To provide the process for requesting staff exemptions to home-based telework during the Stay Safe Order; and for determining approval. |
|-------------------|---|
| Reference:        | Emergency Executive Order 20-56   |
| Associated Links: | Request Form  |
|                   | Field Site Visit Requirements   |
|                   | Sanitizer and Disinfecting requirements   |
|                   | Daily Reporting Form  |
| Approved by/Date: | Exe team Approval; effective June 8, 2020   |

#### Background:

While Executive Order 20-56 allows more non-critical businesses to safely reopen, all state employees who can work from home must continue to do so.

In limited cases, BWSR supervisors can request exemptions from this telework mandate for staff to perform necessary field work or come into the office for a defined purpose.

As of June 2020, MMB is no longer performing exemption request approvals for COVID-related exemptions. Exemptions are still required, and each agency must document requests and approvals.

#### **Request Process:**

Staff initiate exemption requests with supervisors, who work with staff to define need and opportunities to limit in-person work. For work that is unable to be accomplished remotely, supervisors may submit an exemption requests via this online form:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVIDexemptionRequest

The request form (illustrated at right) includes the following: --Supervisor name, staff name, scope of exemption and details on the duration/frequency of the exemption to demonstrate an effort to limit time away from the home office.

Before submission for in-person meetings/trainings, supervisors must work with staff to determine:

1) if the meeting/training is necessary for, or critical to, their work, and if so:

2) that the meeting/training adheres to the current executive order for gathering sizes/social distancing guidelines.

3) duration requests should only include time in the office or field (since we do not carpool, solo travel time is not necessary to track on this form.) Executive Order 20-56 allows more non-critical businesses to safely reopen, but all state employees who can work from home must continue to do so. In limited cases, BWSR supervisors can request exemptions for staff to perform necessary field work or come into the office for a defined purpose.

\* 1. Requestor name (supervisor)

2. Requesting exemption for (Employee name)

3. Specify where. Check all that apply

 Bemidji office
 Rochester office

 Brainerd office
 St. Paul - Lafayette Road office

 Detroit Lakes office
 St. Paul - Pine Street office

 Duluth office
 Waite Park office

 Mankato office
 Field site visits/field work

 Marshall office
 In-person Meeting or Training

4. Describe the scope of exemption (specific reason/need/justification)

5. Explain duration/frequency of exemption, such as one-time only (we need to explain the limits of exemptions)

6. Affirm that you will work with exempted staff to ensure all COVID health, safety, and social distancing measures are in place so they can perform exemption safely

🗌 Affirm

7. For in-person meetings and trainings - please work with employee to determine if mtg. is necessary/essential to their work. Also, note that we must adhere to current executive orders for gathering size. We cannot attend the meeting or training if the gathering size is larger than what is currently allowed. Supervisors are responsible to gather this information before allowing staff attendance.

🗌 Affirm

#### **Approval Process:**

The Executive Support Position will monitor requests twice per week during summer 2020 and at least once per week afterwards (ongoing). When requests come in, they will be forwarded to the Assistant Director Strategy and Operations for a determination. If the AD is unavailable, the requests will be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer for decision.

The criteria for determining if an exemption is approved or denied is dependent on all of the following:

- Scope demonstrates specificity to a task/responsibility.
- Clear justification of why the exemption is necessary or critical to the staff person's job duties and how the work is unable to be completed via telework.
- Duration/Frequency that is specific and shows exemption limits. (such as one-time office visit for up to four hours)
- The exemption is not at odds with other approved requests (requests for the same work should not have significantly different durations/frequencies).
- Supervisor has agreed to ensure all COVID health and safety measures are followed
- Supervisor has agreed to ensure that current Executive order requirements (such as gathering size or social distancing expectations) are followed and that the staff person will not attend (or leave immediately) if the requirements are not met.

Once a determination has been made with approval or denial, supervisor and staff will receive an email notification. Dependent on location, the staff needs to be informed on any restrictions or policies for their office location. An example of the request reply:

.Dear [Supervisor Name],

Your exemption request has been approved as requested.

| Employee                | [Employee name]   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Location:               | [Specific] office   |
| Frequency/<br>Duration: | Into office for up to x visits.<br>Date and time chosen by employee.<br>No more than x hours. |

#### **Requirements:**

#### Health Screening

All employees must self-monitor for COVID19 symptoms. These symptoms may include:

- Temperature >100.4 degrees F
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fever

•

Chills

- Headache
- Sore throat
- Muscle pain
- Loss of taste or smell

Employees experiencing any of the above symptoms while at home should remain at home and not report to any office location nor field site. Any employee who begins experiencing symptoms should leave the office or field site immediately.

#### Social Distancing

This means avoiding large gatherings, small enclosed spaces, and maintaining a distance of at least 6-feet from others. We recommend cloth masks be worn if social distancing practices cannot be maintained, such as in an elevator, hallways, or small room).

#### Cleaning

Please disinfect shared surfaces (such as copiers, conference room chairs, etc.) before and after use. Wash hands frequently.

#### Wrap-up

When you have completed your field/office visit, please record it at this link: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C19\_Office\_Visits</u> If there is any contact tracing that

needs to be done for a confirmed COVID case, we then know you were in a building and can inform you.

Let me know if you have any questions. -Angie

Angie Becker Kudelka, Assistant Director MN Board of Water and Soil Resources Phone: 612-616-5112 Email: <u>angie.beckerkudelka@state.mn.us</u> Web: <u>www.bwsr.state.mn.us</u>

#### Exemption implementation and Documentation:

#### **Building notification**

If you learn of an office building that is restricting/tracking entry into these offices, please let Rachel Mueller know so we can give them approval documentation. (For example, MPCA requires a list at the front desk on who they can let in).

#### Leaving when required

All staff must ensure that current Executive Order requirements (such as gathering size or social distancing expectations) are followed. BWSR staff must not attend (or leave immediately) if the requirements are not met. If you are in a situation where the social distancing guidelines or gathering size does not meet current executive order requirement you must leave immediately. Please convey the following message as you see fit:

#### "As a BWSR employee, I am required to follow all executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic. BWSR management mandates that I leave immediately. You may contact them with concerns."

#### **Daily Recording**

Every time you complete an office or field visit, please record it at this link:

#### https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C19\_Office\_Visits

The form includes:

| Name Location Date # of hours in | office Reason for coming in office |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

If there is any contact tracing that needs to be done for a confirmed COVID case, we then know you were in a building and can inform you.



## **Internal Administrative Policies and Procedures**

# Appendix V: Return to Work Location Checklist

Supervisors should have each employee complete the following form on the employees' first day back in the workplace.

Welcome back! We are glad to be working on getting our team back together and we are glad you're here!

**State Property**. Please confirm which of the following state-owned equipment you are returning to the office (alternate option is to attach form for removal of equipment from office and indicate each piece that has been returned).

| Mobile device (e.g., cellphone, hotspot) asset # |  |
|--|--|
| 🗆 Laptop/desktop – asset #                       |  |
| Computer Monitor(s)                              |  |
| 🗆 VPN token                                      |  |
| Office Chair                                     |  |
| Other (please specify)                           |  |
|  |  |

Did you clean and sanitize all equipment according to guidelines?

🗆 Yes

🗆 No

#### Communications

Remove any modified service message on your voicemail and record a new personal greeting.
 Remove any modified services delivery message on your internal and external email.

| Employee Signature |  | DATE |  |  |
|--------------------|--|------|--|--|
|                    |  |      |  |  |
|                    |  |      |  |  |

Supervisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ D///12\_\_\_\_\_



Internal Administrative Policies and Procedures

# Appendix VI: Remote Health Screening Procedure for Employees

## What is this?

Under OSHA guidance and Governor Walz's Emergency Executive Orders for the COVID-19 pandemic, employers must, to the extent reasonably possible, prevent sick workers from entering the workplace. Below is the remote health screening procedure employees must follow before entering the workplace each day you enter one of the BWSR facilities. Please follow this procedure before you enter the workplace.

## Who needs to follow this procedure?

Any BWSR employee who is assigned to work at the workplace (includes in-person field visits) or who currently has an exemption to enter the workplace for more than 10 minutes, must complete the health screening questionnaire.

#### Steps to complete the remote health screening procedure:

#### Primary method: Online remote screening

- 1. Before you enter the workplace for the first time each day, <u>complete the online health</u> <u>screening form</u>
- 2. Answer the questions
- 3. Follow the instructions for admitted or denied admission

#### Backup method: Remote screening via telephone

- 1. **Before you enter the workplace** for the first time each day, call: 651-259-3685 (if you need a toll-free number, contact your supervisor)
- 2. Answer the questions
- 3. Follow the instructions for admitted or denied admission