

County Commissioner Conversations

NDACo COVID-19 Updates



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



Terry Traynor
Executive Director



First of All...

THANK YOU
FOR WHAT
YOU DO



ON THE FRONT LINES OF THIS PANDEMIC, AMERICA'S
40,000 COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



NEARLY
**1,000 COUNTY
SUPPORTED
HOSPITALS**



AND
**1,900 LOCAL
PUBLIC HEALTH
AUTHORITIES**



ARE ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF
**COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS,
MITIGATION AND RESPONSE.**

DISASTER EMERGENCY / FEMA



Declaring a county emergency



Eligible costs for reimbursement



Document, document,
document



Mary Korsmo

ND State Association of City
& County Health Officers
Executive Director



Local Public Health

- Public health work is constant
- Case contact tracing investigation
- FIT testing
- Home health visits – question screening prior to visit; limited services
- Immunizations – limited and/or by appointment



LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Order through the State cache <http://hanassets.nd.gov/>



Federally - Defense Production Act being used produce additional supplies, such as N95 masks, gloves and hand sanitizer



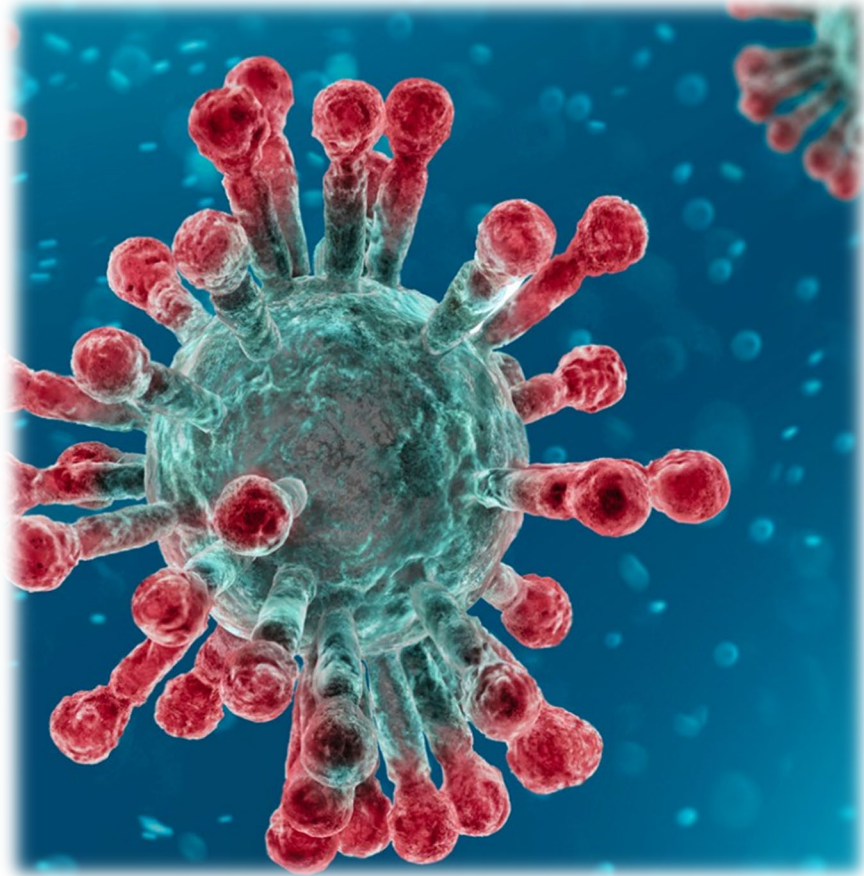
No word yet on funding allocation

Don't become complacent!
***Now more than ever, it's critical to take
preventive action:***

- Wash your hands frequently with soap. In the absence of soap, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
- Avoid touching your T-Zone (eyes, nose and mouth).
- Practice social distancing. Avoid social gatherings and groups of more than 10 people. Use drive-through, pickup or delivery options.
- Work from home when possible.



***Don't become complacent!
Now more than ever, it's critical to take
preventive action:***



- Stay home when you are sick. Call your healthcare provider if you develop fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands. In the absence of a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay away from individuals who are sick. Limit close contact (six feet or more) with others as much as possible.



Aaron Birst

Legal Counsel

Assistant Director - Policy



OPEN MEETING S



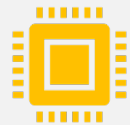
All governing bodies must conduct their business in an open meeting!

Quorum of board members discussing public business.



The public only has a right to access the meeting and not participate.

Unless you let/want them too.



Technology can help facilitate access.



Hopefully, people are understanding. If you are fair to peoplethey will be fair to you

HR Sick Leave & Impacts of Federal Legislation

Fed Rules apply to County Government

Biggest impact are changes to Family & Medical Leave Act – FMLA

Under prior FMLA employees get 12 weeks unpaid leave

Now under "stimulus #1 & #2" certain leave is PAID

Rules go into effect April 1, 2020





Fed law created 6 categories of employees entitled to 80 hours (aka 10 days or 2 work weeks) of PAID sick leave!

1. Employee subjected to federal, state or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID
2. Employee has been advised by a healthcare provider to self-quarantine due to COVID
3. Employee experiencing symptoms of COVID and seeking a medical diagnosis
4. Employee is caring for an individual subject to #1 or advised in #2
5. Employee caring for their son or daughter if the school or place of care has been closed, or the childcare provider is unavailable due to COVID precautions
6. Employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.

- **Category 1-3 means those:**

ORDERED to isolate by Government or Dr. OR they have COVID
80 hours PAID full wage – capped at \$511 day or \$5110 total

- **Category 4 & 6 means those:**

Carrying for person ordered or reason decide by US DOH
80 hours 2/3 pay capped at \$200 day or \$2000 total

- **Category 5 means those:**

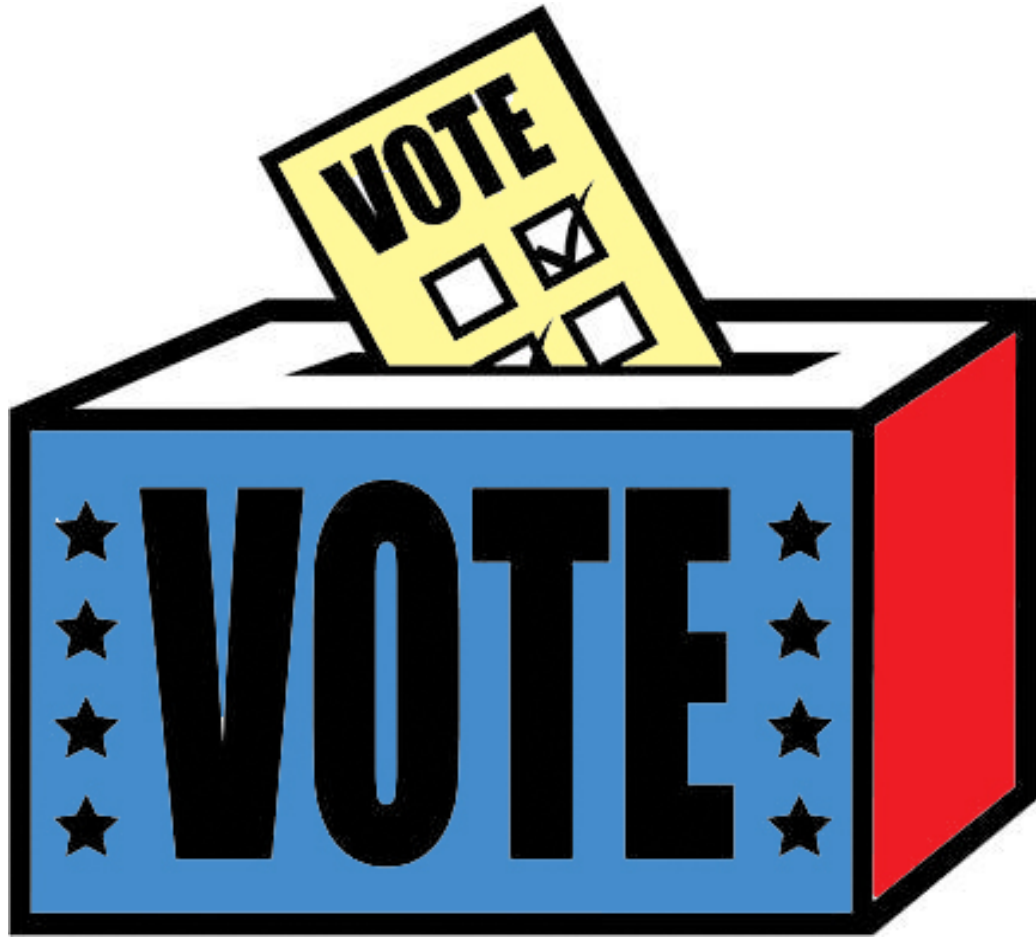
Watching under 18 kids due to school/day care closed
80 hours (UNCLEAR) Maybe Full or 2/3 PAID.....BUT THEN FOR SURE
10 weeks of 2/3 pay capped at \$200 day or \$12000 total

- **NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER** – COVID for first responders
is covered by WSI



Donnell Preskey Hushka
Government / Public
Affairs Specialist





ELECTIONS JUNE PRIMARY

GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-13

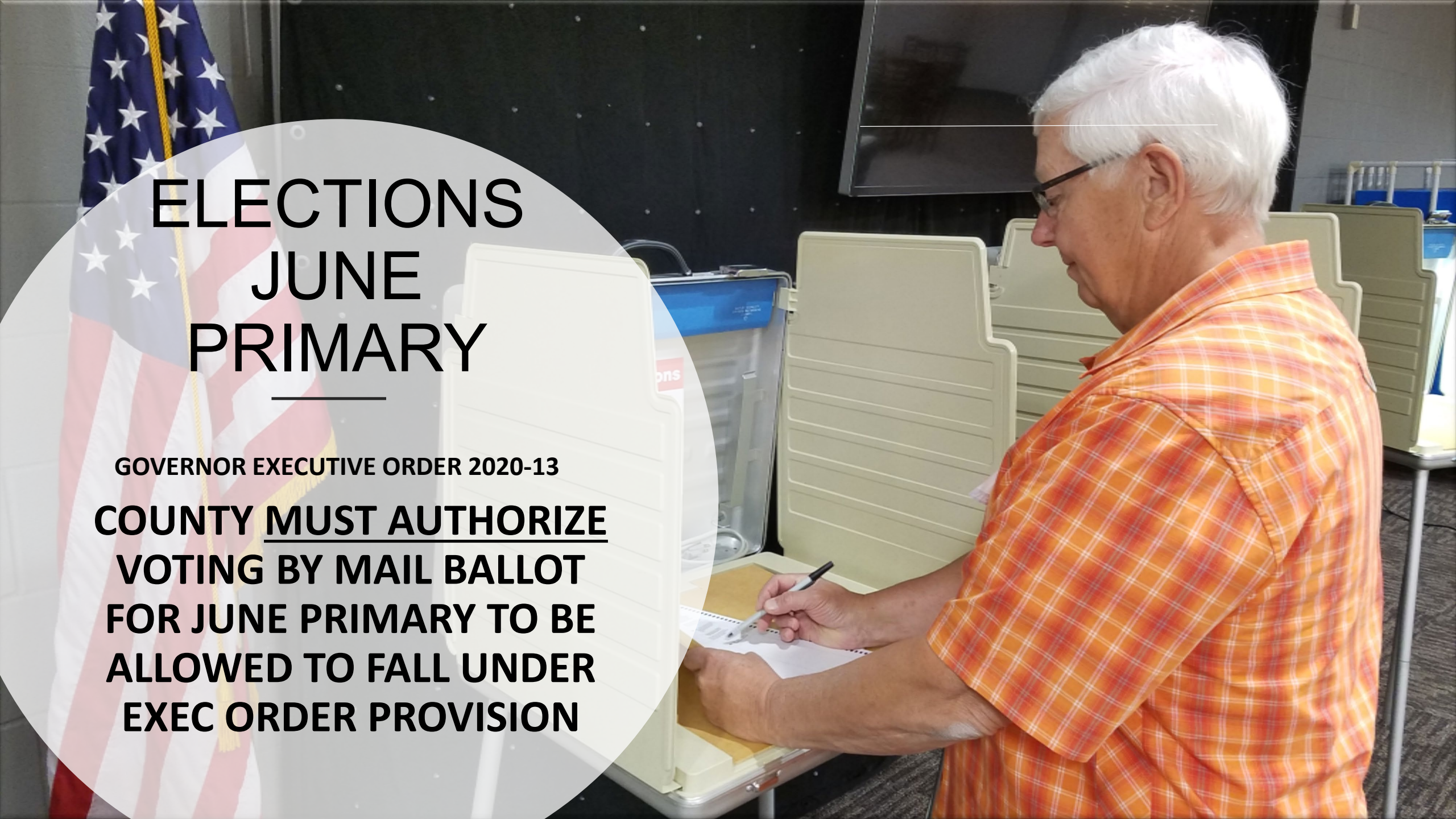
- At request of County Auditors Association
- Urges County Commissions to approve vote by mail (33/53 co)
- Waives requirement - one polling location open

ELECTIONS

JUNE PRIMARY

GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-13

- Establish secure mail ballot drop box locations in county
 - Accessible day ballots are mailed through primary
- Election boards allowed 5 business days prior to election to process ballots
- SOS will mail ballot applications to all voters
 - Return postage paid
- County must provide Express Vote
 - 40 days prior & on election day

A photograph of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing an orange and yellow plaid shirt, standing at a white ballot box. He is holding a pen and writing on a ballot. In the background, there are other ballot boxes and an American flag. A large, semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

ELECTIONS JUNE PRIMARY

GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-13

**COUNTY MUST AUTHORIZE
VOTING BY MAIL BALLOT
FOR JUNE PRIMARY TO BE
ALLOWED TO FALL UNDER
EXEC ORDER PROVISION**



Jason Horning
911 Program Manager



911



- 911 / Public Safety Answering Point Meetings
 - Thursdays at 3:00 Central
 - Operational and Technical Issues Covered
- Verizon Wireless to Wireline Calling Update
 - No Impact on calls to 9-1-1
- Backup 911 Services
 - Insurance policy in case PSAPs need to use remote workers
- NG9-1-1 Program activities will continue as normal



Genny Dienstmann

Assistant Director

Operations



Transportation Updates



- March 24th Governor enacted EO for NDDOT to lift seasonal load restrictions on ***state*** highways
 - Counties are not required to follow EO for local load restrictions
- EO directed State to provide refunds on permits for ton mile fees on spring weight restrictions for loads starting 03/24 or later
 - Counties are not required to follow refund policy of the State
- LoadPass members are closely monitoring road conditions; all but two counties, are keeping load restrictions in place as of 03/26
 - Plan to reevaluate in two weeks; lift restrictions as soon as practical

Transportation Updates cont.



- ***For Oil Counties*** - oil industry is looking for relief from overweight permit costs of seasonal load restrictions
- Not asking for normal fees or requirements to be eliminated, requesting elimination of additional fees and restrictions associated with the frost law season
- NDDOT Update on **Bridge Inspections/Load Ratings**: Federal Highway has no ability to change the schedule for inspections (need Congressional approval)
 - Plan is to move forward with inspections starting April 1st



Jeff Eslinger

Assistant Director
Member Services



Communications



- NDACo Corona Virus information:
www.ndaco.org/corona.
 - FAQ
 - Links to helpful resources
 - Sample documents from other counties you can use for reference
- Follow us on Facebook – search “NDCounties”
- Daily briefings from the Governor’s office 4:00 p.m.
 - ND Health website and Facebook page
 - Gov’s Facebook page
 - Check local listings for TV coverage

Communications (continued)

- Be sure your county communicates regularly
- Majority of public seeks info on websites and social media – be there
- We're willing to help

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!