



MISSISSIPPI
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NEWS RELEASE

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Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Announces Operational Changes in Response to COVID-19

All Public Meetings Canceled, Staff Advised to Avoid Unnecessary Social Contact

MINNEAPOLIS — In response to growing concern around the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWWMO) announced that it is cancelling all public events in its building beginning today through April 10, 2020, and directing staff to limit in-person meetings.

The MWWMO achieves its work through close collaboration with its many partners. The MWWMO Stormwater Park and Learning Center will remain open, but no public events or meetings will be held there. This change reflects guidance from state and federal health officials that avoiding in-person gatherings — i.e., "social distancing" — is a necessary step in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The MWWMO will continuously monitor the situation and adapt its workplace practices as necessary to protect the health and welfare of its employees, partners, and the public.

"Preserving the health of the public and our employees is our top priority," said MWWMO Executive Director Doug Snyder. "We believe the situation warrants an abundance of caution, and we are taking appropriate steps to prevent the potential spread of the coronavirus in our communities."

The MWWMO is limiting in-person interactions and promoting virtual meetings/e-mails/phone calls to conduct business. The changes are precautionary measures; the MWWMO is not currently aware of any employees, board members, or visitors who have come in contact with any infected persons.

MWWMO staff will continue to perform their regular job duties, and have been advised to follow [rigorous hygiene and cleaning practices](#) outlined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Staff have also been instructed to stay home from work and notify their supervisor if they feel sick.

Updates will be posted on the MWMO website at mwmo.org.

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More Information

For updated information on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, including illness prevention tips and public health response, please visit the following websites:

- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Health](#)
- [Hennepin County](#)

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About the MWMO

The MWMO is a public organization that partners to protect and improve water and habitat in our urban watershed. We invest in people and infrastructure to support clean water, and provide knowledge, scientific data and expertise to help manage our vital water resources. mwmo.org

About the MWMO Stormwater Park and Learning Center

Located on the shoreline of the Mississippi River in Northeast Minneapolis, the MWMO's Stormwater Park and Learning Center serves as both an office space for MWMO staff as well as an interpretive center and community meeting space. The MWMO allows partners and environmental organizations to reserve its classrooms for meetings and workshops.