

## **COVID-19's Delayed Impact on South Dakota**

The impact to South Dakota from COVID-19 was delayed in comparison to other states. The state's first COVID-19 cases were announced on March 10<sup>th</sup>, nearly two months after the first case was identified in the United States. These cases were all associated with out of state travel. Community spread of the virus in South Dakota was not identified until late March.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, The Governor issued two executive orders. Executive order [2020-04](#), declared a State of Emergency. Executive order [2020-05](#) ordered non-essential state employees to work from home. It was not until March 23<sup>rd</sup> that executive order [2020-08](#) was necessary. This order outlined further steps that businesses, local governments, and individuals should take to slow the spread of the virus.

Below lists the actions taken by the 10 largest cities in South Dakota and the date those actions were taken. The city of Deadwood is also included because of its reliance on the gaming industry and the outsized impact that will have on both the city and state tax collections related to both gaming revenues and sales taxes. This information is provided to demonstrate that while limited actions were taken in mid-March, most of the steps taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19 were not taken until late March leading to a varied impact on sales tax revenues.

1. Sioux Falls
  - a. March 26 – City ordinance [28-20](#) passed. The ordinance closed certain city property including: Sanford PREMIER Center, Sioux Falls Convention Center, Sioux Falls Arena, Great Plains Zoo, City Hall and City Center Administration Building.
    - i. The ordinance also limits businesses that promote social gathering and do not provide important goods to 10 patrons at a time.
  - b. April 6 –Mayoral “Safer at Home” [proclamation](#) announced. The proclamation strongly encourages residents to remain in their homes except for solitary and/or household outdoor activities for the promotion of physical and emotional well-being, and activities related to the provision of only essential commodities and services.
  - c. March 10 – First positive case in Minnehaha county.
2. Rapid City
  - a. March 27<sup>th</sup> - [Ordinance No. 6412](#) passed. The ordinance restricts the operation of certain businesses including bars, restaurants (no dine-in services), theaters, casinos, and other entertainment venues.
  - b. March 10<sup>th</sup> - A Pennington county resident was the first confirmed death related to the virus. The individual had traveled out of state and was not in the county for the two weeks prior to their death. Additional cases in the county were not identified until later in the month.
3. Watertown
  - a. March 26 – [Ordinance 20-14](#) was passed. The ordinance restricts the operation of certain businesses including bars, restaurants (no dine-in services), theaters, casinos, and other retail and entertainment venues.
  - b. March 23, 2020- First positive case in Codington county.

4. Yankton

- a. March 24 – [Ordinance 1033](#) was passed. The ordinance restricts the operation of certain businesses including bars, restaurants (no dine-in services), theaters, casinos, and other retail and entertainment venues.
- b. April 13 – [Resolution No. 20-26](#) was passed. The resolution directs residents to remain in their homes except for solitary and/or household outdoor activities for the promotion of physical and emotional well-being, and activities related to the provision of only essential commodities and services.
- c. The first case in Yankton county was reported on March 28, 2020.

5. Aberdeen

- a. April 1 - City ordinance [20-03-02](#) passed. The ordinance restricts public gatherings of 10 or more people where there is not sufficient space to maintain 6 feet of separation.
- b. April 7 –City ordinance [20-03-04](#) passed. The ordinance restricts the operation of certain businesses including bars, restaurants (no dine-in services), theaters, casinos, and other entertainment venues.
- c. March 23, 2020 - First positive case in Brown county.

6. Brookings

- a. March 23<sup>rd</sup> - City ordinance [20-005](#) passed. The ordinance restricts the operation of certain businesses including bars, restaurants (no dine-in services), theaters, casinos, and other retail and entertainment venues.
- b. March 24<sup>th</sup> - First positive case in Brookings county.

7. Mitchell - Was impacted earliest in the state due to a family travelling from Florida stopping in Mitchell to seek medical attention for an individual who later died from COVID-19.

- a. March 13<sup>th</sup> - Mayoral executive order [2020-01](#) enacted, declaring a state of emergency and closing certain city facilities and services.
- b. March 30<sup>th</sup> - City ordinance [2020-04](#) passed. The ordinance restricts the operation of certain businesses including bars, restaurants (no dine-in services), theaters, casinos, and other retail and entertainment venues.
- c. First positive case was the individual passing through on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The first case in a county resident was reported on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

8. Spearfish

- a. March 31<sup>st</sup> - City ordinance [1314](#) passed. The ordinance restricts the operation of certain businesses including bars, restaurants (no dine-in services), theaters, casinos, and other retail and entertainment venues.
- b. March 30<sup>th</sup> - First positive case in Lawrence County.

9. Pierre

- a. April 7<sup>th</sup> - City ordinance [1813](#) passed, limiting both public and private gatherings to 10 people, and businesses that cannot accommodate 10 or more people with at least 6 feet of separate between them are asked to not provide services in their traditional settings.

- b. March 23<sup>rd</sup> - First positive case in Hughes County.
10. Huron - Was one of the cities impacted the earliest, with early community spread.
- a. March 22<sup>nd</sup> - City resolution [2020-07](#) passed, limiting both public and private gatherings to 10 people, requests that trips out of the home be limited to essential items, requests businesses to stagger work schedules, and closed city and county offices.
  - b. March 23<sup>rd</sup> - City ordinance [2207](#) passed. The ordinance restricts the operation of certain businesses including bars, restaurants (no dine-in services), theaters, casinos, and other retail and entertainment venues.
  - c. March 10<sup>th</sup> - First positive case in Beadle County.
11. Deadwood
- a. March 25<sup>th</sup> - City resolution [2020-10](#) passed. The ordinance restricts the operation of certain businesses including bars, restaurants (no dine-in services), theaters, casinos, and other retail and entertainment venues.
  - b. This resolution was passed as an [ordinance](#) on March 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. March 30<sup>th</sup> - First positive case in Lawrence County.

A larger impact is anticipated in April as this will be the first full month that orders, proclamations, and ordinances related to the virus will have been in effect. Looking forward to the late spring and summer months continued large impacts are anticipated even with the gradual lifting of restrictions as tourism related travel is expected to be significantly impacted.