

Education Minnesota

It's time to come together and slow the virus before our hospitals and schools are overwhelmed

For more information, contact:

[Chris Williams](#)

651-292-4816 (work)

651-247-5539 (cell)

ST. PAUL, Minnesota, Nov. 18, 2020 – The new measures to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 will only be effective if Minnesotans come together, follow the rules and protect each other, Education Minnesota President Denise Specht said Wednesday night.

“Everyone wants to slow the spread of the virus before our hospitals, schools and other institutions we all depend on are overwhelmed,” Specht said. “The number of educators who are sick or in quarantine is already forcing some school buildings to close completely. The rest of us fear we will be next. It’s time for every Minnesotan to mask up, keep their distance and avoid crowds.”

Gov. Tim Walz on Wednesday announced a four-week pause on social activities, in-person dining, adult and youth sports and fitness establishments. The state’s guidelines for how schools should reduce in-person learning when cases increase in a community were not changed.

“The experts in public health have said what we need to do, but it’s up to each of use to make it work,” Specht said. “We can support school boards and superintendents when they make the tough choice to follow the rules — and hold them accountable when they don’t. If we’re able, we can order takeout from local restaurants and maintain our gym memberships. It’s time to think of your neighbors and do whatever we can. Minnesotans have been through tough times before. We can get through this together.”

About Education Minnesota

Education Minnesota is the voice for professional educators and students. Education Minnesota’s members include teachers and education support professionals in Minnesota’s public school districts, faculty members at Minnesota’s community and technical colleges and University of Minnesota campuses in Duluth and Crookston, retired educators and student teachers. Education Minnesota is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association and AFL-CIO.

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