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City of Duluth Communications Office

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SUBJECT: Mayor Larson issues statement in response to Governor Walz's Executive Orders

BY: Kate Van Daele, Public Information Officer

Mayor Larson issues statement in response to Governor Walz's Executive Orders

[Duluth, MN] In response to Governor Walz's new Executive Orders Mayor Larson has issued the following statement:

"Thank you, Governor Walz and the Department of Health, for making the hard decision to issue the new Executive Orders to help save the lives of people across Minnesota. As we have seen recently in St. Louis County, and across Minnesota, new COVID infection rates are hitting levels that are scary for residents and dangerous to front line health care workers. These are incredibly tough times in households across Duluth, and harder times are ahead. Our collective well being depends on getting through this pandemic. Economic, social and emotional recovery hinges on our ability to survive Covid19.

Following these new restrictions, we can get through this if we can all comply with these orders.

I know you've been doing it all along this year, but now more than ever, please help support our local businesses. If you are able, order carry out from a local restaurant, shop curbside or safely inside at local retail. Not everyone has the luxury to spend money at this time. But if you are able to share your wealth with our strong and vibrant local business community, please do. Let's all do what we can to help everyone get to the other side of this pandemic.

These additional and necessary restrictions will challenge us and our loved ones in multiple ways. Check in on friends and family. Reach out for help with your mental health. Wave and greet your neighbors and make sure they're ok.

We can, and we will get through this, but not without a shared sacrifice of wearing a mask, washing hands, and being socially distant. Our parks and trails are free of charge and easy to access – in Duluth it's possible to get fresh air and have elbow room at the same time. Please consider taking advantage of this.

Compliance of these restrictions mean that essential workers can go home to their families, that more people in our personal circles will not get infected, and that we save lives. This is painfully hard and incredibly necessary. As a community we are capable of rising to this challenge of caring for one another in this important way - and I believe that we will."

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