



# KEEPING YOU SAFE & INFORMED

## OPERATIONAL UPDATE 8-19-2020

Last week's Derecho weather event in addition to our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional operational response for our department. Today's update will cover what the Iowa DOT is doing to assist in responding to both incidents. As we move forward together this update may change to continue to keep you informed of operational happenings that we are involved in as an agency.

### ***Stay connected***

As a reminder, Iowa DOT's COVID-19 pages are the best source of DOT specific pandemic related information. They are available at <https://iowadot.gov/covid-19> (outside the DOT network) or <http://dotnet/covid-19/> (inside the DOT network).

For Iowa-specific COVID-19 information please visit <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/>.

### ***Here's what we know***

- There have been a total of 53,538 positive cases of COVID-19 confirmed in the state of Iowa since the beginning of the pandemic with a total of 1,003 deaths due to the virus. To date, 41,981 people who have tested positive have recovered. 1 in 6 Iowans have been tested for the virus. Of those tested, 508,374 individuals or 1 in 6 Iowans have been negative. These numbers are as of 11 a.m. today.
- The DOT has had 27 positive COVID-19 cases among employees since March. The good news is there is very little indication of employee-to-employee spread. In addition, since safety protocols have been mandated, recent cases have shown minimal need for employees exposed to a positive employee to self-isolate.
- Three DOT routes are closed due to damage or emergency response due to the Derecho. You can get updates on DOT impacted roadway closures at [511ia.org](http://511ia.org).
  - IA-922 at MM 1 and 2 is closed in both directions due to debris/downed powerlines
  - IA 14 at MM 82 is closed in both directions due to emergency vehicles
  - US 30, exit 250 ramp is closed due to emergency vehicle

### ***Here's what we are doing internally***

- Driver & Identification Services have permanently switched to serving customers by appointment only at our service centers. During the early months of the pandemic service centers were operating at a lower capacity to accommodate social distancing and many customers delayed their driver's license or ID renewal within the guidelines of Iowa's emergency disaster proclamation. This created a backlog of customers needing service. Due to this backlog, wait times for appointments is averaging 3-4 weeks out. Staff have been working diligently to find creative ways to address this backlog and bring wait times for appointments to 14 days or less.

- Regulatory relief brought about by the pandemic disaster proclamation is set to expire on August 23. Much of the regulatory relief centers around driver's licensing and motor carrier impacts. Staff are busy making plans on how to inform and assist customers if the relief is not extended.
- While those teleworking have been officially able to return to work at DOT facilities as of July 13 (if they are comfortable) the reality of the pandemic is that there may come a time where the situation will require employees who have returned to once again move to a telework capacity. Staff are working on official guidance to help employees understand what would trigger such a decision and what to expect if that need would occur.
- As the pandemic continues, so does the number of employees who continue to telework. While the DOT has updated their teleworking policy, many are unsure whether they should be officially declaring themselves as a teleworking employee or if they are still in a phase of temporary telework due to the emergency situation. Staff are working on guidance to help clarify some of the uncertainties supervisors and employees are facing with regards to telework.

#### ***Here's what we are doing externally***

- Our maintenance crews have been working diligently to remove debris left over from last Monday's Derecho.
  - They have completed removal in 15 towns: Keystone, Nevada, Slater, Gilbert, Elkhart, Roland, State Center, Clarence, Stanwood, Shellsburg, Marion, Mingo, Elkhart/Sheldahl and Belle Plaine (had 2 separate areas)
  - They are currently removing debris in: Coralville, Iowa City, Clinton, Cedar Rapids, Woodward, Malcom, Marshalltown, Tama, Toledo, Lambs Grove, Madrid, Newton, LeGrand, McCallsburg, Zearing, Martelle, Hiawatha, Newhall, and Alleman
  - Yesterday we had the following resources engaged in debris removal hauling a total of 3,007 loads:
    - 246 Staff
    - 176 Trucks
    - 38 Loaders
    - 12 Skid Loaders
    - 5 Excavators
- We are actively monitoring cameras, traffic layers, and communications with district staff and law enforcement to track road closures/re-openings due to the storm.

As a reminder, your actions have the power to keep yourself, your co-workers, and everyone's loved ones safe. Do your part by wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and regularly washing your hands Please stay safe in all you do!

