



**Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson**  
Office of Communications

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**COVID-19 PRESS BRIEFING**  
**MARCH 26, 2020**

3:00 PM (CST)

Good afternoon. Thank you for listening again today.

As we continue to address the COVID-19 crisis in Missouri, it is important for our citizens to stay updated on the facts.

As of 2:30 p.m. today, there have been 502 positive cases of COVID-19 in Missouri.

A large number of these cases have been in the 20-29 age bracket.

This shows that it doesn't matter how old you are – you are still at risk, and we need everyone to take this seriously.

These are tough times for our state, but we will get through this together. There are still good things happening all around us. Missourians from across the state have stepped up to help, from the private sector to everyday citizens.

As Director Karsten said yesterday, Missouri's public safety team remains strong and is working each day to get millions of dollars' worth of PPE to our hospitals and first responders.

I'll go ahead and turn it over to Director Karsten for her daily update.

*(DIRECTOR KARSTEN SPEAKS)*

Thank you, Director Karsten.

As we continue to address COVID-19, the transportation of PPE is critical.

Motor carriers must be able to deliver essential supplies and equipment to our communities as quickly as possible. Several commercial driving regulations have been waived or relaxed, and the Missouri Department of Transportation has been a huge help in this.

Our trucking industry has also stepped up to the challenge, and I want to thank all of the men and women working so hard to keep the supply chain open and goods and services moving to our citizens.

Director Patrick McKenna with MoDOT is here today to give us an update.



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*(DIRECTOR MCKENNA SPEAKS)*

Thank you, Director McKenna.

We realize this is a challenging, uncertain time for Missouri and the nation.

No matter how you have been affected by COVID-19 – whether you or a family member has gotten COVID-19, you’ve lost a loved one, or lost your job – this crisis is affecting everyone.

Mental health is something everyone should focus on not just right now, but going forward as Missourians continue to cope with the after-effects of COVID-19.

We are going to get through this together, but we have to personally take care of ourselves mentally and physically.

Like all of our state departments, the Missouri Department of Mental Health has been taking steps to help with our COVID-19 response. Director Mark Stringer is here today to provide an update from the Department of Mental Health.

*(DIRECTOR STRINGER SPEAKS)*

*(OPEN FOR QUESTIONS)*

I will say this every day – social distancing is the most important step you can take to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Whether you live in an urban area or a rural area, stay home as much as possible.

This is not just about you. This is about everyone around you and the entire state of Missouri.

We will continue to overcome this, but it is going to take all Missourians working together, looking out for each other, and following social distance orders.

Thank you.