



Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson
Office of Communications

COVID-19 PRESS BRIEFING
MARCH 27, 2020

3:00 PM (CST)

Good afternoon.

As I said yesterday, it is important for all Missourians to stay updated on the facts of the COVID-19 crisis.

As of 2:00 p.m. today, there have been 670 positive cases of COVID-19 in Missouri. Also as of today, there have been nine COVID-19 deaths in Missouri.

The situation is constantly changing, but we are taking steps each day to adapt and respond.

I want Missourians to know we are working around the clock to protect public health and support our citizens in every way possible.

Yesterday, President Trump approved our request for a major disaster declaration for the state of Missouri. We appreciate his quick action and the commitment of federal resources as we continue to fight this battle.

To further assist with our COVID-19 response, I have also signed an Executive Order mobilizing the Missouri National Guard.

I want to be clear – this is not about putting Missouri under martial law.

This is a planning stage operation to provide more assistance to Missourians and increase our capacity to deploy resources quickly.

The Guard will play a major role in supporting state and local communities, including potential support for COVID-19 testing and transporting equipment and supplies.

Just as they did during the floods last year, the Guard is prepared to answer the call again and step in to help wherever they are needed during this crisis.

Adjutant General Cumpton is here to provide more details from the National Guard.

(GENERAL CUMPTON SPEAKS)



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Thank you, General Cumpton.

As the number of COVID-19 cases increase, we know there have been a lot of questions about support for Missouri's healthcare system, such as hospital bed space, overflow locations, and isolation sites for healthcare workers.

One of our primary objectives is to do everything we can to support the healthcare delivery system and ensure hospitals have the equipment they need.

We have tasked MO HealthNet Director Todd Richardson to help coordinate many of these efforts.

Director Richardson is here today to give an update on the progress being made.

(DIRECTOR RICHARDSON SPEAKS)

Thank you, Director Richardson. We'll now turn it over to Kelli for questions.

(OPEN FOR QUESTIONS)

As I've said throughout our COVID-19 response, we will continue to pursue every possible way to protect Missourians and help them recover from this crisis.

We will get through this, and we will be okay.

But, as I have said, it is going to take ALL of us working together.

Again, the most important step Missourians can take right now is **STAYING HOME** as much as possible.

Every day, you need to be thinking about this affects others ... not just yourself.

We all need to be thinking about our families, friends, and fellow Missourians.

The more people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner we will overcome this challenge.

Thank you.