



Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson
Office of Communications

COVID-19 PRESS BRIEFING
APRIL 7, 2020

3:00 PM (CST)

Good afternoon. Thank you for listening again today.

As of 2:00 p.m. today, there have been 3,037 positive cases of COVID-19 in Missouri, including 53 deaths. Over 32,000 Missourians have been tested.

As I've said before, COVID-19 has had a serious impact not only on public health, but also our economy.

Business operations have been limited, and many people have lost their jobs. Over 100,000 people have filed for unemployment this past week.

Last week, the Missouri Department of Labor received news that the \$600 dollar federal supplement for those that are unemployed will be effective the week starting March 29.

The Department of Labor has since received federal guidance, and these payments should begin to be paid retroactively as early as the week of April 12.

In addition to unemployment, workers compensation for first responders has also been an area of concern. Our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMTs are tireless public servants who compromise their own safety to ensure the safety of others.

They risk themselves each and every day. As a result of their duties, they are more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 while on the job.

To help with this, we are directing the Department of Labor to implement an emergency rule that will help ensure first-responders who contract COVID-19 are covered.

This emergency rule will create a presumption that first responders who contract COVID-19 did so in the line of duty.

Today, Director Hui is here to provide more details from the Department of Labor.

(DIRECTOR HUI SPEAKS)



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Thank you Director Hui.

I want to thank all of our first responders again for what they do every day. It is a job most people don't want to do, but others expect them to do it.

Our first responders risk themselves every day, especially right now – not to mention the shortage of PPE they're dealing with.

Today, Officer Jeremy Bowman – President of Jefferson City Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 19 – and International Association of Fire Fighters 2nd District Vice President Mark Woolbright are here to discuss the importance of COVID-19 workers' compensation for first responders across the state.

(OFFICER BOWMAN SPEAKS)

Thank you, Officer Bowman.

(MARK WOOLBRIGHT SPEAKS)

Thank you, Mark, and thank you both again for all you do to protect the people of this state.

Now I'll turn it over to Kelli for questions.

(OPEN FOR QUESTIONS)

I know COVID-19 is the main focus right now, but there are still a lot of other things happening in Missouri.

I want to remind everyone to be safe not just by social distancing, but on the roadways if you do have to get out.

Although traffic volume has decreased significantly across the state due to COVID-19, MoDOT and the Highway Patrol are seeing an increase in speeding and traffic fatalities. Already in 2020, there have been 174 traffic fatalities statewide.

Just last week alone, MoDOT vehicles were struck three times by distracted drivers.

The emergency room is the last place you want to find yourself during this public health crisis. That's why now more than ever, it is critical to drive safely and obey the rules of the road.

Our law enforcement officers continue to enforce the laws, but please do your part to make Missouri roadways safer and do not add to the current stress of our health care system.



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Just like preventing the spread of COVID-19, personal responsibility is key to safe driving.

Pay attention, drive sober, obey the speed limit, buckle up, and put your phone down. And most importantly, if you don't have to get out, stay home, Missouri.

Thank you and God bless.