



Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson
Office of Communications

COVID-19 BRIEFING
APRIL 8, 2020

3:00 PM (CST)

Good afternoon. Thank you for listening again today.

As of 2:00 p.m. today, there have been 3,327 positive cases of COVID-19 in Missouri, including 58 deaths. Over 34,000 Missourians have been tested.

We know that PPE continues to be one of the biggest challenges right now. There is a tremendous demand for PPE not just in Missouri, but across the country.

All states are facing delays getting PPE because of the high demand, but we're doing all we can to expedite the delivery of all PPE.

Today, we're distributing PPE for law enforcement and fire service agencies to regional distribution points across the state.

We will continue to do all we can to give our frontline responders the protection THEY need to do their jobs safely during this time.

Today, Director Karsten is here to give an update.

(DIRECTOR KARSTEN SPEAKS)

Thank you, Director Karsten.

We know there is also increasing concern over hospital bed space, equipment, and alternate care sites.

We continue to communicate with medical experts and hospitals across the state, review the data, and keep track of bed space and equipment ... and right now, Missouri is in a good place.

However, I want to assure you that we do have a plan in place. We have identified our "hotspots," and we are moving forward with our first alternate care facility in the St. Louis region.

MO HealthNet Director Todd Richardson is working closely with federal and regional health care partners, SEMA, DHSS, and the Missouri National Guard to help coordinate this, and we are thankful for their efforts to support Missouri's health care delivery system.



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Today, Director Richardson is here to give an update.

(TODD RICHARDSON SPEAKS)

Thank you, Todd.

The Missouri National Guard will play a major role in this process, and we're pleased we were able to get our federal disaster declaration and funding request approved.

Today, Adjutant General Cumpton is here to provide more details.

(GENERAL CUMPTON SPEAKS)

Thank you, General Cumpton. Now I'll turn it over to Kelli for questions.

(OPEN FOR QUESTIONS)

There is no doubt that these are hard times – some of the hardest Missouri has ever faced. But I want Missourians to know that there IS hope, and there are still positive things happening all around us.

Missourians from across the state have stepped up to help, from the private sector to everyday citizens.

There are a lot of people doing the right thing, whether volunteering their time and resources or by staying home. Social distancing is working, and people ARE recovering.

This is what it's going to take to overcome this ... Missourians working together, looking out for each other, and doing their part.

We aren't out the woods yet by any means, but we will overcome this. So please continue to be smart, be responsible, and stay home, Missouri.

Thank you and God bless.