



Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson
Office of Communications

COVID-19 BRIEFING
APRIL 9, 2020

3:00 PM (CST)

Good afternoon. Thank you for listening again today.

As of 2:00 p.m. today, there have been 3,539 positive cases of COVID-19 in Missouri, including 77 deaths. Over 39,000 Missourians have been tested.

Continuing our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, I am ordering all public and charter schools to remain closed through the remainder of this academic year, with the exception of nutrition and child care outlined in our Stay Home Order.

This recommendation was made to me today by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and several school superintendents from across the state.

Schools should conclude their school year on the date previously set on their academic calendar. It is expected that schools continue remote learning until that date.

Today, Commissioner Vandeven is here to provide more details.

(COMMISSIONER VANDEVEN SPEAKS)

Thank you, Commissioner Vandeven.

Although it may be hard to see now, I want Missourians to know that our aggressive efforts to combat COVID-19 are working.

We were planning for COVID-19 long before Missouri's first case, and have been taking action ever since. We have issued two statewide orders and have continually told Missourians to stay home.

I want to thank the many people who have been following these orders because again, it is working. Metro areas such as Springfield and Columbia have supported that these mandates ARE making a difference.

Each day, we communicate with medical experts and hospitals across the state, review data, and keep track of bed space and equipment.

We do have hospital beds and ventilators available right now, and people are recovering.



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Missouri is in a good place, but we must keep up these efforts.

With so much of our daily discussions centering on COVID-19, it's easy to lose sight of other important activities that keep us all safe. Safe driving is one of those activities.

Based on traffic data across the state, we know more people are following the Stay Home Order, and we are very appreciative of that. But as I said Tuesday, we need Missourians to be safe not just by social distancing, but on the roadways as well.

While traffic volume has significantly decreased as a result of COVID-19, speeding has increased.

Reckless driving leads to accidents and adds to the current stress of our first responders and health care professionals. That's why now more than ever, it is critical to drive safely and obey the rules of the road.

Today, Director McKenna is here to give an update from MoDOT.

(DIRECTOR MCKENNA SPEAKS)

Thank you, Director McKenna. Safety is always a concern for us – everyone should be obeying the rules of the road at all times.

Our law enforcement officers continue to enforce the laws, crisis or no crisis. Today, Colonel Eric Olsen is also here to give an update from the Missouri Highway Patrol.

(COLONEL OLSEN SPEAKS)

Thank you, Colonel Olsen.

We are very grateful to see so many Missourians following the order and staying home. Businesses across the state have also stepped up, including grocery stores.

It is encouraging to see so many stores, big or small, following the guidelines of the order and doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Many stores, including Schnucks, are enforcing capacity limits to maintain as much social distancing as possible and protect both customers and employees.

Today, Schnucks President and Chief Operating Officer, Dave Peacock, is here to share more about the steps Schnucks is taking in its stores across Missouri.



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(DAVE PEACOCK SPEAKS)

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

(OPEN FOR QUESTIONS)

Again, I want to thank all of you who have been following the Stay Home Order, practicing social distancing, and doing the right thing.

These measures are working, and we must remain aggressive in our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. We will overcome this, but we need everyone to continue following the Stay Home Order.

So please, continue to make smart choices and be responsible. Reduce public contact as much as possible, and maintain 6 feet distance between yourself and others.

And most importantly, if you don't have to get out, stay home, Missouri.

Thank you and God bless.