



Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson
Office of Communications

COVID-19 BRIEFING April 14, 2020

3:00 PM (CST)

Good afternoon. Thank you for listening again today.

As of 2:00 p.m. today, there have been 4,686 positive cases of COVID-19 in Missouri, including 133 deaths. Over 48,000 Missourians have been tested.

As I said yesterday, we greatly appreciate Missourians' commitment to following our Stay Home Missouri Order, especially over the holiday weekend.

MoDOT's latest traffic update showed a drop in traffic volume from last Sunday to Easter Sunday. This shows Missourians are listening and doing the right thing, and we're very grateful for that.

Today, Director Karsten is here to give an update on PPE and the St. Louis region alternate care site.

(DIRECTOR KARSTEN SPEAKS)

Thank you, Director Karsten.

From the severe impact on public health and the economy to Missourians' day-to-day life and everything in between, COVID-19 has had far-reaching impacts on our state.

Like many businesses and industries during this time, Missouri's transit systems are facing challenges as a result of COVID-19, especially in rural Missouri. I am happy to announce that Missouri is the first state in the nation to receive a federal grant for rural transit as part of national COVID-19 relief efforts.

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration announced a \$61.7 million dollar grant to the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) as part of the CARES Act signed by President Trump.

These funds will provide a much-needed boost to rural transit systems in Missouri, as many have reduced service due to the COVID-19 crisis.



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I want to thank Secretary Chao, Congressman Sam Graves, Senators Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, and the remainder of our federal delegation for their role in obtaining these important funds for Missouri. This relief will help keep Missouri's rural transit systems operating.

Another area that continues to be a concern is unemployment.

Yesterday, the Missouri Department of Labor began issuing the \$600 dollar federal unemployment supplement payments with a total of \$66 million dollars in benefits paid out to over 115,000 claimants. Eligible claimants should begin seeing payments within the next few days.

Unemployment claims are unimagined, historic highs right now, but the Missouri Department of Labor is working each and every day to meet this challenge, and I'm very proud of their hard work and commitment to Missourians.

In addition to hiring temporary workers, the Department is using staff across all divisions to help with the increased work volume and process claims as quickly as possible. On the technology side, the Department has increased its online capacity and is working with private vendors to assist with the call center.

I want to thank Director Hui and the entire Department for their continued efforts to assist Missourians during this difficult time.

With so much of our daily discussions centering on COVID-19, it's easy to lose sight of the positive things happening around us. I'm so proud of how Missourians have pulled together to help and find solutions during this time of crisis, including our health care system.

As I said yesterday, our hospitals across the state have responded to COVID-19 without hesitation. From converting ICU beds to training health care personnel and establishing remote testing sites, they have adjusted operations and come up with creative ways to meet the demands of COVID-19.

Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City is one of many hospitals thinking outside the box and making innovative changes in the face of this challenge.

Today, Truman Medical Centers President and CEO Charlie Shields is here to share more about the creative steps they have taken to stay ahead of the COVID-19 curve.

(CHARLIE SHIELDS SPEAKS)



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

(OPEN FOR QUESTIONS)

Again, thank you to ALL Missourians for their commitment to doing the right thing and following our "Stay Home Missouri" Order.

Each day, we are closer to winning this battle, and we must remain aggressive in our efforts to continue slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Now is the time to CONTINUE social distancing and staying home as much as possible.

We will overcome this, but we need everyone to continue making smart choices, being responsible, and following the Stay Home Order, because at the end of the day, that is how we will stop the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you and God bless.