



**Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson**  
Office of Communications

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**COVID-19 BRIEFING**  
April 15, 2020

3:00 PM (CST)

Good afternoon. Thank you for listening again today.

As of 2:00 p.m. today, there have been 4,895 positive cases of COVID-19 in Missouri, including 147 deaths. Over 49,000 Missourians have been tested.

Last week, I announced that school buildings will remain closed for the rest of this academic year, while learning and other school services continue to be offered to students at a distance.

We understand this is difficult for students, families, and educators. This was not an easy decision, but we believe it was the right decision not only to continue protecting the health and safety of Missouri students and teachers, but also to give educators time to transition into remote teaching and learning solutions.

We know remote learning looks different in every district across the state, but I want to thank all of our educators, as well as our families at home, for stepping up and finding creative ways to continue educating our students during this difficult time.

On Monday, we received confirmation from the U.S. Department of Education that Missouri will receive \$208 million dollars under the CARES Act to help schools with COVID-19 related needs.

Additionally, we received notification yesterday Missouri will also receive \$54.6 million dollars from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund authorized under the CARES Act. These dollars allow us to provide emergency support for K-12 schools, higher education, and other education institutions impacted by COVID-19.

Today, Commissioner Vandeven is here to provide more details.

*(COMMISSIONER VANDEVEN SPEAKS)*

Thank you, Commissioner Vandeven.

We cannot thank Missourians enough for their efforts and commitment to following the "Stay Home Missouri" Order.



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Staying home and reducing public contact is still the most important step we can take as we continue to fight COVID-19.

However, I want to remind everyone that this order does not mean you must stay inside your home and never come out. That is not healthy for anyone.

Spending time outdoors is good not only for our physical health, but also our mental health. We encourage Missourians to get outside and enjoy the fresh air.

Conservation areas, nature trails, and boat accesses remain open to the public, and the Missouri Department of Conservation has taken several precautions to ensure Missourians can still safely enjoy these activities.

Today, Director Pauley is here to give an update on the Department's COVID-19 response.

*(DIRECTOR PAULEY SPEAKS)*

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

*(OPEN FOR QUESTIONS)*

Tomorrow, we will address the "Stay At Home" Missouri Order after a number of conversations with local elected officials and other governors. We will also begin looking at a plan to re-open Missouri.

That said, I want to assure everyone that public health remains our NUMBER ONE priority.

As Governor, I have no greater responsibility than protecting the health and safety of all Missourians. We will continue to take all steps necessary to keep the people of our state healthy.

Right now, testing and social distancing are the most important factors to getting COVID-19 under control and our economy back on track. Once testing is where it needs to be, then we can open the state back up.

But again, until that time comes, it is critical for everyone to continue following the "Stay Home Missouri" Order, especially in the next couple of weeks.

So, please continue to be smart, be responsible, and Stay Home, Missouri.

Thank you and God bless.