



Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson
Office of Communications

COVID-19 BRIEFING
April 17, 2020

3:00 PM (CST)

Good afternoon. Thank you for listening again today.

As of 2:00 p.m. today, there have been 5,283 positive cases of COVID-19 in Missouri, including 165 deaths. Over 52,000 Missourians have been tested.

Yesterday, I announced that the “Stay Home Missouri” Order is extended through May 3rd.

We are seeing signs in the data that Missouri is beginning to slow the course of COVID-19, and we are seeing improvements across the state.

If good social distancing continues, we **WILL** reopen the economy and get Missourians **BACK TO WORK**.

Between now and May 4th, we will continue to monitor the situation and work with Missouri's hospitals, health care providers, public health experts, business leaders, and state departments to develop a data driven plan.

We will also be reaching out to the business community, as well as local county and city government, to put plans in place for May 4th and begin the first phase of reopening Missouri.

To recap from yesterday, our Show Me Strong Recovery Plan will have two initial phases, which are intended to protect those most at risk of exposure to COVID-19 and return Missouri to a new normal:

First – protect health care workers, first responders, and other direct care workers so that our most vulnerable citizens have access to the care they need.

Second – strategically reopen businesses supported by testing data and insights from employers AND employees.

Additionally, our “Show-Me Strong” Recovery Plan rests on 4 essential pillars:

1. Rapidly expand testing capacity
2. Expand our reserves of PPE



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3. Continue to monitor and, if necessary, expand hospital and health care system capacity
4. Improve our ability to predict potential outbreaks using Missouri's public health data

This approach combines a number of sources on Missouri specific data, and will allow us to evaluate the situation locally,

As we continue to develop this plan and move into the recovery phase of COVID-19, the Missouri Department of Economic Development will have a major role.

The Department has already been very active throughout our COVID-19 response, and we're extremely grateful for their efforts to assist Missouri businesses and workers as much as possible during these challenging times.

Today, Director Dixon is here to share more about our economic recovery plan.

(DIRECTOR DIXON SPEAKS)

Thank you, Director Dixon.

Before we answer questions, I'll turn it over to Director Karsten for an update on PPE.

(DIRECTOR KARSTEN SPEAKS)

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

(OPEN FOR QUESTIONS)

I want to thank Missourians again for their efforts and sacrifice during this difficult time for our state. No matter how long it takes, I assure you we WILL recover from this and come back better than before.

I look forward to seeing Missourians safe, healthy, and **BACK TO WORK.**

Thank you and God Bless.