



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

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**COVID-19 BRIEFING**  
June 11, 2020

3:00 PM (CST)

Good afternoon.

Again, we are thankful that protests this week have remained peaceful across the state.

Today, I had the chance to meet with community leaders from Kansas City, St. Louis, and Columbia. We made progress. I appreciate their time, and I value their opinions.

As you know, Phase 1 of our “Show Me Strong Recovery” Plan expires this coming Monday, June 15th.

It is truly incredible to think about how far Missouri has come since March. At that time, no one knew what to expect. There was a lot of uncertainty, worry, and concern.

Concerns that our hospitals would be overwhelmed, and that we wouldn’t have enough ICU beds and ventilators. Concerns over PPE shortages. Concerns that testing wouldn’t be widely available, and many, many other obstacles.

Here we are today, just over 90 days since our first case in Missouri, and I am so proud of our citizens, Missouri companies, and communities across the state for doing their part and using common sense.

Thanks to you, we have overcome ALL of these challenges and more than met our four pillars to reopen.

Pillar 1 was testing – we went from testing only a handful of people each day to an average of approximately TEN THOUSAND tests per day over the past 2 weeks. Since April 20th, weekly testing has increased more than 220 percent.

Pillar 2 was PPE – we continue to receive and distribute PPE across the state, and we received national recognition on the Google PPE marketplace. We currently have over 100 hospitals, 436 suppliers, and more than 1,500 health care providers, Missouri businesses, and other organizations registered in the marketplace.

Pillar 3 was hospital capacity – our hospitals were NOT overwhelmed, and we converted a hotel into a hospital in just 11 days thanks to the Missouri National Guard and the Army Corps of



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Engineers. From May 1st to yesterday, June 10th, total hospitalizations have fallen by 43 percent statewide. As more people recover, ICU beds and ventilators continue to become available.

Pillar 4 was data – we went from having no Missouri specific data to an entire dashboard of data from across the state.

We have learned and accomplished so much since March.

Knowing what we know now, we are much better prepared to deal with COVID-19 going forward, which is why we are confident that Missouri is ready to take the next step forward.

Beginning Tuesday, June 16, we will move into Phase 2 of our recovery plan. In Phase 2, there will be NO statewide order – Missouri will be fully open for business.

Local officials will still have the ability to put further measures or regulations in place, but from a statewide stance, all restrictions will be lifted.

We know that there have been a lot of questions and concerns regarding nursing homes and veterans homes.

The State of Missouri and our partners in long-term care are committed to assuring the health and safety of some of our most vulnerable citizens in long-term care facilities throughout the state.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, our long-term care facilities and veterans homes have put restrictions in place regarding visitations. We also continue to take aggressive action with our box-in testing strategy when a positive case is identified in either staff or residents.

We're grateful to our long-term care facilities and Veterans Commission for their work and recognizing the importance of testing to keep our loved ones safe.

At the same time, the Department of Health and Senior Services is working closely with the long-term care industry to issue guidance on safely and logically reopening long-term care facilities in a way that aligns with the situation in each community and individual facilities. We expect to publish these recommendations within the next few days.

I want to thank each of you with a loved one in these facilities – we know we all share the same desire to keep them healthy both physically and mentally.



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As we fully reopen in Phase 2, we will be extending the emergency declaration through December 30th in order to utilize CARES Act funding.

I have also extended four previous Executive Orders through December 30th. These include:

- Executive Order 20-04 waiving or suspending over 530 regulatory burdens,
- Executive Order 20-06 mobilizing the National Guard in our response efforts,
- Executive Order 20-08 waiving the requirement for a person to be physically present in front of a notary public,
- and Executive Order 20-05 allowing the sale of unprepared restaurant foods to the public,

Extending these orders is consistent with the emergency declaration and gives Missourians time to adjust as we reopen and work through the recovery process.

We have full confidence that Missouri is prepared and ready to move forward, but I want to be clear – just because we’re fully reopening the state DOES NOT MEAN that the steps we’ve taken so far should be forgotten.

The virus is still out there, and it is still extremely important for everyone to continue social distancing.

Be proactive. Avoid large, congested crowds, and if you can’t social distance, take extra precautions to protect yourself and those around you.

We ALL know how to do this now, and it is up to us to take personal responsibility for our own actions.

The health and safety of Missourians will ALWAYS be our number one priority, but as I have said many times, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on our economy.

We have met the four pillars. We have accelerated testing. We know what preventative measures need to be taken, and we are prepared to deal with any potential outbreaks or hotspots.

Now, it is time to begin repairing our economy and getting Missouri businesses, communities, and citizens back on their feet.

Today, Director Dixon is here to talk more about our plans for economic recovery.



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(DIRECTOR DIXON SPEAKS)

Thank you, Rob.

Like I said, we are fully confident that Missouri is prepared and ready to reopen, but we must remember that COVID-19 is not gone.

Use common sense. Practice good hygiene. If you feel comfortable wearing face covering, wear a face covering. Be proactive and take precautions to protect yourself, your families, and your neighbors. And above all else, continue to social distance.

I know that Missourians will continue to do the right thing, and I know that TOGETHER, Missouri will recover and come back stronger than ever before.

God bless you, God bless Missouri, and God bless the United States of America.

Thank you.