



Dear State of Missouri Team:

We have come a long way as a state in our ability to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

This virus was virtually unknown to us at the start of the new year. In the short time it's been present in our nation and in Missouri, we have learned a lot.

One thing that is unusual is that we have seen such a wide degree of variation in how the disease affects people. Some never experience any symptoms at all, and yet they are able to pass it on to others who sadly succumb to the same virus.

We have also learned how our behaviors impact the virus's ability to spread.

The same prevention measures we have been recommending for months still apply today. Good handwashing. Social distancing. Using face coverings. Staying home when sick.

Because of what we have learned and how we have responded as a team, we have tools that we didn't have in March.

We are seeing a dramatic shift in the ages of those diagnosed with COVID-19 in Missouri. The average age of someone testing positive for COVID-19 in Missouri is continuing to decline steadily. The average age of all people who have tested positive in Missouri is now 41.

Currently, 38% of all reported cases in Missouri are of those in their twenties and thirties.

Regardless of age, we need everyone to take this virus seriously and use prevention measures. It's not just about your own health. You can bring this virus to someone more vulnerable than yourself. Everyone has a responsibility to help keep their families and communities safe by doing their part.

In good health,

Dr. Randall Williams Director, Department of Health and Senior Services