



State of Missouri Team:

I am a member of the cross-department team focused on Missouri's [“Show Me Strong” recovery plan](#). I see the incredible dedication and service team members across the departments provide to the citizens of Missouri. Every state employee is engaged in an important role to serve the people of Missouri.

The growing number of COVID-19 cases in our state is not where we want to be in our fight against COVID-19. We have seen cases rise over the last several weeks. As Governor Parson has repeatedly stated, COVID-19 remains a very real threat to the health and safety of Missourians.

However, Missouri hospitals have the capacity to handle the health care needs of all who may require hospitalization. We are also increasing access to testing, delivering critical personal protective equipment to healthcare providers and improving our ability to use data to monitor and respond to spread of the virus.

Each and every one of us has the power to slow the spread of COVID-19. Make sure you do your part to make that difference. Basic common sense measures remain one of the best tools we have to fight this virus. Whenever it is possible to work remotely, do so. Always social distance and wash your hands. I also strongly urge the use of a face mask at work when you are around others.

This includes students and teachers who go to school.

Safely reopening schools for our students is a major milestone for every family in resuming normal life. The [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s \(DESE\) FAQs](#) to safely reopen schools may be a very helpful resource for you and your student to prepare for the upcoming school year.

I know we are all anxious to resume our normal lives. The progress that we have achieved through the Missouri’s [“Show Me Strong”](#) recovery plan is proof we are making significant strides to get there. Let’s keep that momentum going to help Missouri stay strong and resilient. Remaining focused and committed to doing all that we can to support the “Show Me Strong” recovery plan will hasten the return to a more normal life.

As always, we urge you to visit the [COVID-19 Employee Resource website](#) for the latest information and to contact your HR director if you have questions or concerns. We sincerely appreciate your service and the steps you take to keep yourself and those around you safe and healthy!

It is an honor to continue to serve with you.

Todd Richardson

Director of Missouri HealthNet

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