



Dear Teammates:

I hope your weekend was restful. Thank you for continuing to support each other. I want to specifically recognize our teammates who cannot work remotely but who show up every day to perform the essential functions of state government including, but not limited to, emergency and public safety professionals, unemployment insurance workers, corrections officers, healthcare workers, child welfare investigators and transportation workers – with many working at offices across the state. We need you all to stay focused on the task at hand. You are on the front lines delivering services to the public who depends on us to get the job done. Please keep reading for a few updates about federal and local government actions.

### **Update About Unemployment Insurance**

With so much happening in the state and federal government, it is challenging to keep up with how these proposals may or may not impact an individual's situation at work. Please help us dispel some misinformation about the federal legislation. In Missouri, most people who quit their job are not eligible for unemployment benefits. If an employer, like the State of Missouri, offers sick leave and/or other leave options to address COVID-19 in lieu of layoff, then an employee who **quits on his/her own choice** would not qualify for unemployment benefits and would also **NOT qualify for the \$600** pandemic federal additional assistance compensation (PFAC) that would be on top of weekly unemployment insurance.

State leadership is closely tracking the bills, determining how they apply to the state government workforce, and will provide you with updates.

### **County Stay at Home Orders**

Many county health departments are issuing stay at home orders. The county orders can be found on our employee resource guide webpage at <https://oa.mo.gov/personnel/state-team-member-resources>. Under these orders, government is considered an essential service; therefore, essential employees are exempt from the stay at home order for purposes of driving to work. You should not have to carry documentation to come to work. If you have questions or you think you need a letter from your department check with your supervisor. Please remember, your state ID badge should be sufficient to prove employment or essential contractor status.

Check the Employee Resource webpage often. We will continue to update you as the COVID-19 situation changes. Don't forget the basics of doing what you can to stop the spread:

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid close contact with others
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces

Also, please continue to practice social distancing, or more appropriately called physical distancing, which is keeping at least 6 feet of space between people.

If you want to know more about COVID-19 go to the DHSS webpage at <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/> which is updated frequently.

Thank you for continuing to work to provide Missourians with the services they need.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Sarah Steelman

Office of Administration