What You Should Know COVID-19

Missouri Novel Coronavirus Information Hotline 📞 877-435-8411

Dear State of Missouri Team:

As Missouri continues to reopen gradually, we know you have questions.

One important topic is COVID-19 testing. There's a lot of information out there. Here are some important points that every state employee should understand.

The state has processed more than 125,000 tests since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Missouri is now performing about 3,000 tests a day with Missouri-based labs, as well as the help of national labs. Missouri has the lab capacity to perform a lot more tests each week. Due to the increase in access to testing, DHSS issued new testing guidance to help encourage more people to get tested. The new criteria also encourages greater access to health care workers, first responders, and others who work in critical industries or who are at high risk for becoming severely ill.

Part of our state testing strategy is to focus testing rapidly wherever there might be an outbreak. In those cases, it makes sense to test those who might have been exposed whether or not they have symptoms. Why? Because we know that some people are infected yet still "asymptomatic" – or not showing any symptoms yet. This helps contain potential outbreaks as quickly as possible.

Inside state government, we have done this already in state prisons, mental health institutions, and youth centers. We are also supporting this sort of testing in long-term care facilities, jails, meatpacking plants, and other critical facilities where people work closely together. As these testing needs arise, we want to provide support and ensure the right testing is coordinated.

And what does a person do once they are tested? They should self-isolate until test results are received. Most people tested now are, in fact, negative. They should follow their doctor's guidance throughout the process. Testing and self-isolation will remain important parts of our public health strategy to control the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

- [Missouri's testing criteria](#)
- [Missouri's testing collection sites](#)
- [CDC's webpage on testing](#)

Thank you all for the incredible work you do to help our fellow Missourians during these difficult and unprecedented times. If you have questions about testing, please feel free to call our team at the statewide COVID-19 hotline: 877-435-8411.

In good health,

Dr. Randall Williams

Director, Department of Health and Senior Services