



Our interagency COVID-19 vaccine planning team has been working on several goals. One of them has been identifying barriers to vaccination for Missourians. This includes finding solutions to overcome them.

During the last week of March, DHSS launched the [statewide transportation resource guide](#). The Missouri Advisory Committee on Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution also aided the launch. This launch will help address and drop barriers to COVID-19 vaccine access.

A guide of transportation platforms can be found at [MOStopsCovid.com/ride](#). This resource is now embedded throughout the state's COVID-19 vaccine rollout infrastructure. This includes the state's COVID-19 hotline and [MOStopsCovid.com](#). You can also use Missouri's Regional Implementation Teams. The resources can be customized by location for each vaccine event and site.

Some providers normally serve older adults and individuals with disabilities. But many are now helping anyone in their service area with vaccination transportation. Most of the transportation providers are able to provide this service at no cost, and some are providing services at reduced costs. More transportation options will be added to [MOStopsCovid.com/ride](#) as it becomes available.

We know language can be a barrier to becoming or learning how to become vaccinated. Almost all aspects of [MOStopsCovid.com](#) are translatable with the click of a button. But we are working to make [Missouri Vaccine Navigator](#) available in many languages. This goes beyond English to make this process more accessible by all residents.

Not having internet access or having technology struggles can be another limiting factor. Most vaccination registration is completed online. We have great partners among the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). They have been [assisting many older Missourians](#) throughout the state with vaccination registration. This includes coordination of round-trip transportation to appointments. They are also able to assist with reminder calls when seniors are due for their second doses. The AAAs have even begun to assist those who are homebound to make sure vaccinators can come to them.

Transportation, language, and computer and internet access could keep Missourians from vaccination. I would like to thank our interagency team, members of our advisory committee and our private partners. They helped break down these barriers to provide access for all willing Missourians.

All Missourians become eligible for vaccination this Friday. Please let your friends and family know to visit [MOStopsCovid.com](#) for vaccine facts.

In good health,

Dr. Randall Williams, DHSS Director

P.S. If you are still debating whether or not to get the vaccine, check out the presentations by [Dr. Kim Thomas](#) and [Dr. Bill Powderly](#) of Washington University in St. Louis. Also [get the facts](#) at the state's vaccine website.

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