

Office of Missouri Governor
MICHAEL L. PARSON

Dear Team Members:

We all know COVID-19 is an unprecedented challenge for our state. As public servants, our fellow citizens and communities will continue to rely upon us to serve them during this difficult time. Thank you for being great public servants even while you and your families adapt to life with COVID-19. It's not easy. I appreciate you and all you do.

The COVID-19 challenge calls for extraordinary actions. We have urged every citizen to take responsibility for the personal behaviors that are the best defense against COVID-19. These include commonsense steps like handwashing, cleaning work surfaces, not coming to work if you have a fever or don't feel well, and "social distancing." That means limiting contact with other people. All our departments have been changing the way they work to implement this guidance.

On Saturday, I took a new step recommended by health professionals: I directed the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services to require [new "social distancing" policies](https://governor.mo.gov/press-releases/archive/governor-parson-directs-dhss-director-require-social-distancing-statewide) across the state [<https://governor.mo.gov/press-releases/archive/governor-parson-directs-dhss-director-require-social-distancing-statewide>]. These include limiting gatherings to 10 or fewer people, as well as requiring Missourians to avoid eating or drinking at restaurants, bars, or food courts. State government operations are not included in this public health order.

Nonetheless, to reduce public foot traffic and improve social distancing across the state, I will be announcing today we are closing the Capitol and state office buildings throughout the state to the public. This will take effect Tuesday, March 24, 2020 until 12:01 A.M. Monday, April 6, 2020 unless extended. This does not apply to our prisons, veterans homes, and other state-run facilities who are already operating with limited public access.

How will this affect you? Your cabinet directors have already identified personnel who need to continue to work at the buildings to keep government operations running. You should hear today whether you will continue to come to work in a state building. Many of you work in facilities where you have to be hands on with your job. Many of you are already working remotely. Still many of you will shift to remote work or alternative arrangements.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to develop, this is another important step to help protect the health and safety of our state public servants and all Missourians.

Thank you again for rising to the challenge to keep Missouri safe and secure even during such challenging times.

Sincerely,

Governor Mike Parson

[For more resources on COVID-19](#)

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