

## COVID-19

Health officials are working hard to contain the spread of the COVID-19 (commonly known as "coronavirus") in the United States. Please visit the **Department of Health and Senior Services COVID-19** ([https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)) page for information on COVID-19 in Missouri as well as tips on staying healthy.

If you have a loved one in a Missouri Department of Corrections facility, please sign up to receive email or text alerts [here](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/subscriber/new) (<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/subscriber/new>). Enter your email address or cell phone number, and select "Family & Friends" in the **topics menu** (<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/newsroom/covid-19/data>).

### COVID-19: Department of Corrections Preparation

The Missouri Department of Corrections has implemented procedures to protect staff and offenders during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

#### Adult Institutions

At this time, no changes have been made to the offender release process. All offenders scheduled for release will be released on time. No additional releases or mass releases are planned in response to COVID-19.

Currently there are no cases of COVID-19 among offenders inside any Missouri Department of Corrections facility.

**One offender** tested positive while already hospitalized with other medical conditions. He had no direct contact with offenders or staff during the 14-day period preceding his positive test. He later tested negative for COVID-19 twice and remained hospitalized with multiple medical conditions. He died in the hospital April 2, 2020. **Five staff members** employed in prison settings have tested positive for COVID-19. One had been on unrelated leave for 21 days before testing positive and had no direct contact with offenders or staff during the 14-day period preceding his positive test. The others did not have contact with offenders. Staff with whom these staff have had close contact have been quarantined. Details are available on our **data page** ([/media-center/newsroom/covid-19/data](https://media-center/newsroom/covid-19/data)).

Here are some of the steps we've taken to keep COVID-19 out of our facilities and prepare to contain it if an outbreak occurs:

- **Viral containment plan** at each prison, restricting offender movement and group sizes
- Shelter-in-place process for **enhanced care units**
- Manufacture and distribution of **face coverings** for staff and offenders
- Suspended volunteer and reentry partner **programs**
- Suspended offender **visits** March 12
- Suspended regular offender **transfers** among facilities, except in extenuating circumstances
- Enhanced **offender screening** on intake
- **Screening of all staff** and others entering any facility or other corrections property, with temperature checks
- Strict **sanitation schedules** and guidelines implemented at every prison
  - Amplify **cleaning supplies** at every prison
  - Designated **point person** at each facility to ensure adherence to the sanitizing schedule and availability of soap and sanitizer
  - Around-the-clock on-site **medical care** at every prison
- **Training** in COVID-19 preparation and response for all staff
- COVID-19-enhanced **pandemic protocols** implemented at every prison
- **Testing** available at every prison
- **Isolation cells**, wings and units identified for use, if needed, at every prison
- **Isolation** of offenders showing signs of communicable diseases
- **Flyers** posted at workites with tips on preventing the spread of communicable diseases
- Missouri Vocational Enterprises (MVE) **hospital laundry** process approved by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council. All offenders wear protective gear and have been educated and personally instructed on handling hospital laundry safely and employing techniques to mitigate risk.

#### Communication with Families

- Effective March 23, Securus is providing each offender with up to **two free 10-minute phone calls** each week to help offenders stay in contact with family and friends while offender visits are suspended. The call credits are assigned weekly. The receiving party is not charged.
- Effective April 7, JPay, the company providing tablet-based monitored email services to offenders, is giving each offender with **one free email** each week, in addition to the four free monthly emails already provided

#### Probation & Parole

In the Division of Probation & Parole **five staff members** in different parts of the state have tested positive for COVID-19. All people with whom they were in contact were notified, and all offices were cleaned.

- Suspension of **interstate compact transfers** to and from Missouri
- Missouri Parole Board **hearings** conducted through video conference
- Continuing closure of Missouri **state government buildings** to the public, with many state staff members working from remote locations
- **Continuing supervision** of all probation and parole clients, with options for community visits, phone contact, video visits and electronic monitoring
- Screening of every person attempting to enter a **Probation and Parole office**
- Enhanced screening on intake at **community supervision centers** (CSCs), residential facilities and the Transition Center of St. Louis (TCSTL).
- **Pandemic plan** in place for all Probation and Parole offices and community corrections facilities
- **Flyers** posted at workites with tips on preventing the spread of communicable diseases

#### Helping the Community

Three Missouri Vocational Enterprises (MVE) factories have modified their operations to provide much-needed products and services to government agencies and nonprofit organizations during the public health crisis:

- The chemical plant at Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center in Bonne Terre began production of **hand sanitizer**, yielding 6,800 gallons in the first week.
- The **toilet paper** factory in Cameron ramped up production, with an additional 600-800 cases each week; it now produces 3,500 cases (336,000 rolls) every week.
- The clothing factory at Jefferson City Correctional Center is making 4,000 **protective gowns** requested by the Missouri Veterans Commission.

([/media-center/newsroom/covid-19/data](https://media-center/newsroom/covid-19/data))

Updates on COVID-19 cases among Department of Corrections staff and offenders.

#### Missouri Department of Corrections Messages

- April 11: **Message to Staff Regarding COVID-19-Positive Facility Staff Member** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/2860678>)
- April 8: **Message to Staff Regarding COVID-19-Positive Missouri Vocational Enterprises Staff Member** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/2858cab>)
- April 6: **COVID-19 Updates: Visiting Suspension, Volunteer Restrictions, Staff Screenings, Face Coverings, Viral Containment Plans** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/2852b39>)
- April 6: **Visiting Suspension Extended** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/2852bb6>)
- April 3: **Staff Face Coverings, Personal Masks & Hand Sanitizer** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/284d479>)
- April 3: **Message to Staff Regarding COVID-19-Positive Staff Member** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/284d3ec>)
- April 3: **State Offices Remain Closed; Current Staff Work Arrangements Continue** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/284cd0d>)
- April 3: **Message to Staff Regarding COVID-19-Positive Probation & Parole Staff Member** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/284ce3a>)
- April 2: **Message to Staff Regarding COVID-19-Positive Probation & Parole Staff Member** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/284ce90>)
- March 31: **Daily Press Briefing - Department of Corrections Works to Prevent Spread of COVID-19** (<https://governor.mo.gov/press-releases/archive/governor-parson-gives-updates-missouri-national-guard-department-economic>)
- March 30: **Message to Staff Regarding COVID-19-Positive Office Staff** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/284ce9f>)
- March 27: **Message to Staff Regarding COVID-19-Positive Probation & Parole Staff Member** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/284ceaf>)
- March 23: **Hospitalized Offender Tests Positive for COVID-19** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/282c94f>)
- March 23: **Message to Staff Regarding COVID-19-Positive Offender** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/282cc75>)
- March 21: **Securus Provides 2 Free Weekly Calls** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/2827f1a>)
- March 20: **Director Precythe's Message to Staff** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/2825d45>)
- March 19: **Message to Offenders** (<https://doc.mo.gov/media-center/newsroom/covid-19/message-to-offenders>)
- March 18: **Screening Process Implemented** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/281dd68>)
- March 15: **COVID-19 Update for Staff** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/280ff24>)
- March 12: **Visiting Suspended at All Correctional Centers** (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MODOC/bulletins/280c794>)
- **MODOC on Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/MissouriCorrections/>)
- **MODOC on Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/MoCorrections>)

If you have urgent questions about COVID-19, you may call **877-435-8411**. This line is open 24/7.

#### Official Public Health Resources

(<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/>)

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: **COVID-19** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)
- Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services: **COVID-19 Updates** (<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/>)
- Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services: **Pandemic Response Plan** (<https://health.mo.gov/emergencies/panflu/panfluplan.php>)
- Missouri Department of Mental Health: **Stress & Anxiety Resources** (<https://dmh.mo.gov/disaster-services/covid-19-information>)

#### Media Center

**Newsroom**  
(<https://doc.mo.gov/media-center/newsroom>)

**For Media Professionals: Inquiries & Interviews** ([/media-center/media-professionals](https://media-center/media-professionals))

**Reports & Publications** ([/media-center/publications](https://media-center/publications))

**Sunshine Law: Offender Data** ([/media-center/sunshine-law](https://media-center/sunshine-law))

**Alerts** ([/alerts](https://media-center/alerts))

**Offender-Made Media** ([/media-center/offender-made-media](https://media-center/offender-made-media))

**Staff News** ([/media-center/newsroom/staff-news](https://media-center/newsroom/staff-news))

**Facility News** ([/media-center/newsroom/staff-news/local-news](https://media-center/newsroom/staff-news/local-news))

**Reentry News**  
(<https://doc.mo.gov/programs/missouri-reentry-process/news>)

**Success Stories** ([/media-center/success-stories](https://media-center/success-stories))

COVID-19 DATA

([/media-center/newsroom/covid-19/data](https://media-center/newsroom/covid-19/data))

#### COVID-19 UPDATE

([/media-center/newsroom/covid-19](https://media-center/newsroom/covid-19))

#### Staff News

**Staff News**  
(<https://doc.mo.gov/media-center/newsroom/staff-news>)

**Videos for Staff** ([/media-center/newsroom/staff-news/staff-videos](https://media-center/newsroom/staff-news/staff-videos))

**Messages from Director Precythe**  
(<https://doc.mo.gov/director/anne-precythe/messages-staff>)

**Local Facility News**  
(<https://doc.mo.gov/media-center/newsroom/staff-news/local-news/>)

**Media Center**  
(<https://doc.mo.gov/media-center/newsroom>)