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COVID-19 Information

The most recent Missouri State Profile report released by the CDC (<https://healthdata.gov/Community/COVID-19-State-Profile-Report-Missouri/cq69-gktb>) indicates high levels of COVID-19 transmission throughout much of the state. The delta variant is believed to be driving the rapidly rising cases of COVID-19 in many Missouri communities.

The delta variant is approximately twice as contagious as the original strain of COVID-19. In addition, we are seeing more and more infections among younger, healthier individuals—including severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths. While older individuals are at greatest risk for severe illness and hospitalizations, we are seeing more instances of younger adults and some children, with and without underlying health conditions, being hospitalized. The delta variant is causing roughly twice the number of hospitalizations overall as the original strain. Overwhelmingly, those contracting COVID-19, developing severe illness, requiring hospitalizations, and dying from the virus are unvaccinated individuals.

Highest rates of COVID-19 transmission are occurring in the Southwest region of the state. Southwest Missouri is also experiencing substantial increases in hospitalizations requiring individuals to be transferred to other regions of the state. There have been shortages of ventilators in the region. Roughly half of those in the region hospitalized with COVID-19 have required ICU level of care. In addition to the southwest region, we are seeing indications of rapid spread into central, northeast, and southeast regions of the state. Interactive maps that indicate the number of new cases and positivity rates by county are located on the department of health and senior services website (<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus-lpha/hotspot-map.php>). These maps also contain arrows indicating if a county is trending up or down for new cases. DHSS has also begun issuing hot spot advisories (<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/hotspot-advisories.php>) yesterday with the first one issued for Camden, Miller, and Morgan Counties.

The best way to bring COVID-19 under control remains vaccinations. Vaccinations are widely available in every county in Missouri. They remain highly effective at preventing infection and prevent almost all severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. You can walk-in to most pharmacies and grocery stores to get a vaccination without an appointment. Tools are available to help you [find a vaccine](#), including the vaccine type by location if you need Pfizer due to being under age 18. Resources are also available to help [get a ride](#) if needed or assistance for those that are [seniors, disabled, or homebound](#).

We encourage everyone to practice safety measures including masking when in crowded settings, social distance as much as possible and to seek vaccination if you have not already done so. Those at greatest risk remain unvaccinated individuals, particularly those in older age categories and/or with underlying health conditions.