

City of St. Louis Department of Health

Health Alert

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Director of Health

The City of St. Louis Department of Health is providing this information to you through the local Health Alert Network (HAN), which is part of a nationwide program to provide rapid mass distribution of information to health providers and others whenever a disease or event threatens the health of our communities. HAN provides for a new level of defense against health threats, including the possibility of bioterrorism.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance and warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation and may not require immediate action.

Health Updates provides updated information regarding an incident or situation and can also provide additional information to revise a previously issued Health Alert or Health Advisory. Health Updates are unlikely to require immediate action.



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From: City of St. Louis Department of Health
Re: COVID-19 actions in the City of St. Louis
Date: March 17, 2020

Update – COVID-19

The City of St. Louis Department of Health is issuing the following update to public health stakeholders regarding actions around COVID-19 (coronavirus).

On Monday, March 16, The City of St. Louis announced its first positive case of COVID-19. The case is travel-related, with very limited contact to others in the City of St. Louis. The person has complied with self-quarantine guidelines since returning to the City and continues to be monitored by Department of Health staff.

The Department of Health staff met with Federally Qualified Health Centers on Monday to discuss their efforts and take their questions.

Sunday, March 15, The City of St. Louis, with four other bi-state government jurisdictions, recommended the following actions to limit exposure of COVID-19.

- Effective immediately and for the next eight weeks, scheduled events and social gatherings with more than 50 people in attendance are prohibited across all five jurisdictions, as recommended by the CDC. This decision will be reevaluated constantly in communication with the region's top health care professionals.
- It is recommended that by at least Wednesday, March 18, 2020, all public, private, charter, and parochial schools across all five jurisdictions close until further notice. This decision will be reevaluated by April 3 for the City of St. Louis, Saint Louis County, and St. Charles County.
- In Missouri, decisions regarding the mandatory closures of restaurants, bars, and nightclubs remain under consideration and are expected to be made soon.

The Department of Health is receiving questions regarding guidance to close daycares. Discussions are being held and a decision will hopefully be made soon.

The Department of Health's COVID-19 hotline, 314-657-1499, will expand its hours to stay open from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., starting today (March 17). A dedicated support line for medical providers to reach the Department of Health has also been established, with hours from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Additional guidance was sent in a separate email to medical providers with that support line number.

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The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services continues to offer a 24/7 hotline for general questions. That number is 877-435-8411.

The Department of Health continues to meet daily with staff from the Department of Human Services, City Emergency Management Agency and the Mayor's office to coordinate services throughout the City.

The Frequently Asked Questions document is being revised to reflect public health and hospital system matters. Once available, we ask for your help in distributing it through your channels and service locations.

The Department of Health's dedicated website, [COVID-19 Coronavirus Information](#), continues to be updated regularly with the latest information from City government. Recent updates include a new format for better readability, updated case counts for Missouri and the United States, and Social Distancing Flier was made available for sharing and printing to suggest ways to limit exposure to COVID-19.