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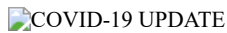
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COVID-19



Health officials are working hard to contain the spread of the COVID-19 (commonly known as “coronavirus”) in the United States. Please visit the [DHSS COVID-19](#) 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](#). Enter your email address or cell phone number, and select "Family & Friends" in the [topics menu](#).

Missouri Department of Corrections Messages

- March 23: [Hospitalized Offender Tests Positive for COVID-19](#)
- March 21: [Securus Provides 2 Free Weekly Calls](#)
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COVID-19: Department of Corrections Preparation

The Missouri Department of Corrections is prepared to contain the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. Here are some of the things we’re doing:

- Effective March 24, Missouri **state government buildings** have been closed to the public, and many state staff members have begun working from remote locations. Prison staff continue to maintain normal operations in correctional centers.
- One offender with multiple medical conditions, who had been in a negative-airflow isolation chamber since March 4 and was hospitalized March 19, **tested positive** for COVID-19 March 23 in a Kansas City area hospital. He did not have contact with other offenders. All staff in contact with him used personal protective equipment.
- 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 March 12, 2020, offender **visiting is suspended** at all state prisons for 30 days. This decision was made as a preventative measure to protect the health of staff and offenders. After 30 days, the department will reassess the situation and make appropriate decisions.
- Any staff member or other person entering any Missouri Department of Corrections facility, office or other property will be screened. All staff must complete a **verbal screening process** before entering a Corrections property to begin work. Staff who do not successfully complete the screening will be given instructions and information regarding next steps.
- Strict **sanitizing schedules** have been implemented at all facilities. All facilities have ample access to soap, sanitizer and other cleaning products. A point person has been designated at each facility to ensure adherence to the sanitizing schedule and to ensure that soap and sanitizer are always stocked.
- All **interstate compact** transfers to and from Missouri have been suspended.
- Offender **transfers** among Department of Corrections facilities have been suspended, except in extenuating circumstances.
- Effective March 22, all **Missouri Parole Board hearings** will be conducted through video conference. Hearings that victims have requested to attend may be postponed.
- Screening on intake is enhanced at **community supervision centers (CSCs)**, residential facilities and the Transition Center of St. Louis (TCSTL). Probation and Parole administrators are working on a plan to address referrals to community corrections facilities.
- **Electronic monitoring** is being expanded for higher-risk probation and parole clients.
- All **employee health nurses** are informed and stay updated through a weekly call. They have a protocol in place to identify COVID-19 symptoms and take appropriate action.
- Every offender is screened at intake using a **screening tool** recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- **Corizon Health** is prepared to identify symptoms and take appropriate action.
- Any offender showing signs of the disease will be placed in **isolation**. A test for the coronavirus may be administered following guidance from medical professionals. Each prison has been directed to prepare isolation beds/wings.
- Any person attempting to enter a **Probation and Parole office** is required to complete a screening process before entering.
- Each prison already has a **pandemic plan** in place. These plans have been modified to include specifics for the coronavirus.

- All Probation and Parole offices and community corrections facilities have a pandemic plan in place.
- **Flyers** have been posted at worksites with tips on preventing the spread of communicable diseases.
- MODOC leaders have **twice-daily calls** at 7:30 a.m. and noon with the Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) and other state leaders to monitor the situation.
- Both Corizon and MODOC have designated staff to check in with DHSS and CDC daily for updates.
- Missouri Vocational Enterprises (MVE) is prepared when dealing with **hospital laundry**. Our process has been 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.
- To help address the demand for protective products, Missouri Vocational Enterprises (MVE) will begin producing **hand sanitizer** in prison industries inside correctional centers.

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

Official Public Health Resources

 [What You Should Know: COVID-19](#)

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: [COVID-19](#)
- Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services: [COVID-19 Updates](#)
- Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services: [Pandemic Response Plan](#)
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