St. Charles County Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATE

(as of 4:25 p.m., April 30, 2020)

St. Charles County Government and the Department of Public Health staff are working closely with local, regional, state and federal partners to investigate COVID-19, monitor individuals who may have been exposed to the virus and implement procedures to reduce the spread of illness. Consult St. Charles County's COVID-19 website for information on the disease pandemic and the county's response activities.

For additional St. Charles County COVID-19 video tips, please visit our website.

Additional Help and Available Resources

To help St. Charles County residents and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, a web page offers links and phone numbers for organizations offering assistance.. St. Charles County also operates a COVID-19 Information Hotline (636-949-1899) that is answered from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily.

Updated COVID-19 Report

The Department of Public Health reports the following:

Persons being quarantined	685
Persons who have completed quarantine period	1,096
Number of tests pending at the Missouri State Laboratory*	1
Number of negative tests*	78
Number of positive tests	583
COVID-19 deaths	35

Please note: The Department of Public Health is in the process of switching to a new data reporting system and creating a new online dashboard for our website. During this process, there may be discrepancies in the reported data. We appreciate your patience during this process.

*Tests are being performed at both the Missouri State Laboratory and through private testing laboratories. The number of negative and pending tests is reported to the Department of Public Health by the Missouri State Laboratory only; private labs do not report pending or negative tests to the health department.

Today's News:

- The Department of Public Health was notified last night of the 35th reported COVID-19 death involving a St. Charles County resident — a female in her 70s, who was a resident of Frontier Health and Rehabilitation, St. Charles.
- St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann issued Executive Order 20-07 to address the County's Phase 1 Re-Opening Operations.
- Today's briefing from the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force - https://www.facebook.com/StLouisMetropolitanPandemicTaskForce/videos/265551171300261/.

For more updates and links to COVID-19 news releases, visit our Latest News web page - https://www.sccmo.org/COVIDNews.

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What is Contact Tracing? Why is this important?

Contact tracing is the process of identifying people who may have been exposed to a contagious disease like COVID-19 and investigating those people, and those who they may have contacted, to stop the spread of that illness.

Contact tracers work with individuals to make a list of people with whom they may have interacted while they were potentially contagious. Contact tracers then contact the people on the list, provide them guidance on next steps and begin asking questions. They may ask where a person works, where they have visited, where they obtained food or other supplies, and with whom they may have met. If that person has interacted with others, the process starts again.

Those being investigated play a key role in the effort to prevent further spread of illness. Those that are exposed will be asked to self-quarantine themselves and to monitor the progression of symptoms. Because the ultimate goal is to stop the spread of illness, the more detail and honesty provided, the better the investigation.

To protect privacy, confidentiality is always maintained throughout the contact tracing process.

Separating COVID-19 Fact from Fiction

With the volume of COVID-19 information in the news, online and on social media, facts often mix with fiction. Do you know what is fact or fiction when it comes to COVID-19?

FACT: The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, dry cough and shortness of breath. However, some individuals can be asymptomatic, which means they are infected and can spread the virus but do not show symptoms.

FICTION: If you can hold your breath for 10 seconds or more without coughing or feeling discomfort, you don't have COVID-19. **This is NOT true.** The only way to confirm the virus is through a lab test.

FACT: One of the best ways to protect yourself from COVID-19 is to frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Dry them thoroughly with a paper towel. Hand dryers are not more effective in killing the virus. If you cannot wash your hands, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol is effective.

FICTION: Drinking alcohol protects against COVID-19. **This is NOT true.** Drinking alcohol does not kill the COVID-19 virus in your body. And, frequent or excessive alcohol consumption can increase your risk of other health problems.

FACT: There is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, nor is there a recommended treatment for those who become infected. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid exposure to the virus by practicing social distancing, staying home except for essential needs, and following good hygiene/sanitization habits.

FICTION: COVID-19 only affects people of certain ages or ethnic backgrounds. **This is NOT true.** People of all ages, genders, races, nationalities, and backgrounds have been infected by this virus across the globe. However, vulnerable populations, including those with medical conditions and seniors, appear to be more susceptible to serious complications from COVID-19.

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