

St. Charles County COVID-19 UPDATE

(as of 3:50 p.m., May 7, 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.



COVID-19 Case Report

The Department of Public Health reports the following:

Persons being quarantined	600
Persons released from quarantine	1,096
Number of tests pending at the Missouri State Laboratory*	1
Number of negative tests*	78
Number of positive tests	645
COVID-19 deaths	46

**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:

- News Release Issued at 12:27 p.m., 5/7/20: [St. Charles County Council, Planning & Zoning Meetings to Be Held at St. Peters Justice Center; Public Allowed Entrance with Social Distancing](#)
- The Department of Public Health was notified today of the 46th reported COVID-19 death involving a St. Charles County resident — a female in her 80s.
- Effective Saturday (May 9, 2020), the St. Charles County COVID-19 Information Hotline will be staffed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat-Sun, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mon-Fri.

For more updates and links to COVID-19 news releases, visit our [Latest News web page](#).

Additional Information:

Putting on/Taking Off Masks

Face masks can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, but only if you wear and care for it correctly. The type of mask you choose isn't nearly as important as when, where and how you wear it. Since you can't immediately tell who does and does not have the virus by looking at them, you should wear a mask in public spaces.

Correctly putting on and taking off the mask involves a few simple, but crucial steps:

1. Wash hands with soap and water before putting on the mask. Avoid touching the center part of the mask.
2. Make certain the mask covers from the bridge of your nose to below your chin.
3. Pull the ties so the mask fits snugly against your face but allows for comfortable breathing and clear vision.
4. If your mask has pleats, it's most comfortable to have the folded sides face downward.
5. Take off your mask the same way you put it on – by not touching the fabric. Don't take it off until you're out of the public space and wash your hands immediately after removing the mask.

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COVID-19 Guidelines for St. Charles County Employers

St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann announced that the county would follow the state's "Show Me Strong Recovery" Plan that went into effect on May 4, 2020. The Department of Public Health included additional guidelines to increase health and safety measures for all St. Charles County employers. These guidelines may be viewed at <https://www.sccmo.org/COVIDEmployerGuidelines>.

Testing

Two types of tests can be conducted to confirm that a person has been exposed to the SARS-Cov-2 virus that causes COVID-19. A viral test can tell if you have a current infection, with results expected within a few days. Locations of testing sites in Missouri can be found [here](#), and the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) has recently authorized the use of home collection kits. Several laboratories have begun offering an antibody test that can determine if a person had a previous infection but cannot tell if he/she is currently infectious.

A screening is required to [determine testing eligibility](#). Those interested in learning more about testing options should contact their health care provider, undergo [an online virtual screening](#), or call the St. Charles County COVID-19 Information Hotline at 636-949-1899.

Contact Tracing

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.

Community Resources Available

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 6 p.m., Mon-Fri and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat-Sun.

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