

# St. Charles County COVID-19 UPDATE



(as of 3:55 p.m., May 18, 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:

<b>Persons being quarantined</b>	444
<b>Persons released from quarantine</b>	1,783
<b>Number of tests pending at the Missouri State Laboratory*</b>	3
<b>Number of positive tests</b>	705
<b>COVID-19 deaths</b>	50

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

## **Today's News:**

- Today's briefing from the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force - <https://www.facebook.com/StLouisMetropolitanPandemicTaskForce/videos/628604581203022/>.

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

## **Additional Information:**

### ***Guidelines for Opening and Operating Community Pools and Aquatic Facilities***

Memorial Day traditionally signals the start to pool season in our area. For those entities choosing to open a community pool or public aquatic facility this month, the Department of Public Health offers guidelines for employees and guests designed to increase everyone's health and safety:

- Follow [CDC considerations](#) for safe facility operations.
- Enforce social distancing guidelines that recommend at least a 6 foot distance both in and out of the water.
- Do not allow deck furniture to be rearranged or grouped in areas with less than 6 feet of space in-between.
- Consider reducing bather loads/facility occupancy to account for social distancing.
- Clean and disinfect doors, gates, furniture, railings, restrooms and other commonly touched surfaces regularly.
- Clean, disinfect and regularly test water systems.
- Encourage hygiene and respiratory etiquette for individuals in and out of the water.
- Post signage encouraging social distancing, hand washing and other recommended practices.
- Follow guidance outlined by the [St. Charles County Aquatic Facility Code](#) and other community regulations.

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### COVID-19 POOL SAFETY TIPS

- Follow CDC social distancing recommendations.
- Sanitize and test water multiple times a day.
- Sanitize entries, exits and surrounding hard surfaces.

For additional St. Charles County COVID-19 videos, please visit our [website](#).

### ***COVID-19 Guidelines for St. Charles County Residents and Employers***

To accompany County Executive Steve Ehlmann’s directive to follow Missouri’s “Show Me Strong Recovery” plan for reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Public Health offers recommendations for residents to increase health and safety measures. These may be viewed at [sccmo.org/COVIDResidentGuidelines](https://sccmo.org/COVIDResidentGuidelines).

The department issued additional guidelines for St. Charles County employers, with industry specific recommendations for food service providers, professional services, retail stores, places of worship, offices, public transportation, schools and childcare facilities, pools and aquatic centers and more. These may be viewed at [sccmo.org/COVIDEmployerGuidelines](https://sccmo.org/COVIDEmployerGuidelines).

For questions, please call the St. Charles County COVID-19 Informational Hotline that is answered from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Mon-Fri, or 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Sat-Sun, at 636-949-1899.

### ***Quarantine Procedures/Expectations***

The St. Charles County Department of Public Health and other public health agencies require those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and others who are close contacts of those individuals to quarantine according to guidelines set by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov). Quarantine is used to keep someone exposed to the COVID-19 virus away from others and is focused on preventing the spread of disease.

In St. Charles County, these individuals are contacted by letter from the department which outlines expectations and procedures for the quarantine process. These expectations include:

- The individual signs and agrees to follow the recommendations.
- The individual must stay inside their residence during the quarantine process – usually 14-15 days.
- If social distancing inside the home is not possible, the individual must wear a face mask around others.
- The individual must monitor and report temperatures and symptom progression to the department.
- The individual will receive a letter of release from the department following completion of the quarantine period. Letters from medical providers or employers do not release an individual from county-mandated quarantine.

### ***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.

### ***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 its 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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