



# **Show Me Strong Recovery: Public Health**

*The next phase of Missouri's response*

# ENDEMIC

*What does that mean in public health?*

*/en'demik/  
adjective*

*Endemic does not mean the end of COVID-19. In public health, the term endemic refers to the constant presence of a disease within a population or geographic area.*

*Over the last two years in Missouri's emergency response, we expanded capabilities in areas of PPE, testing, vaccinations, hospital capacity, data collection and treatments for COVID-19 that allows us to move to our next phase of recovery.*

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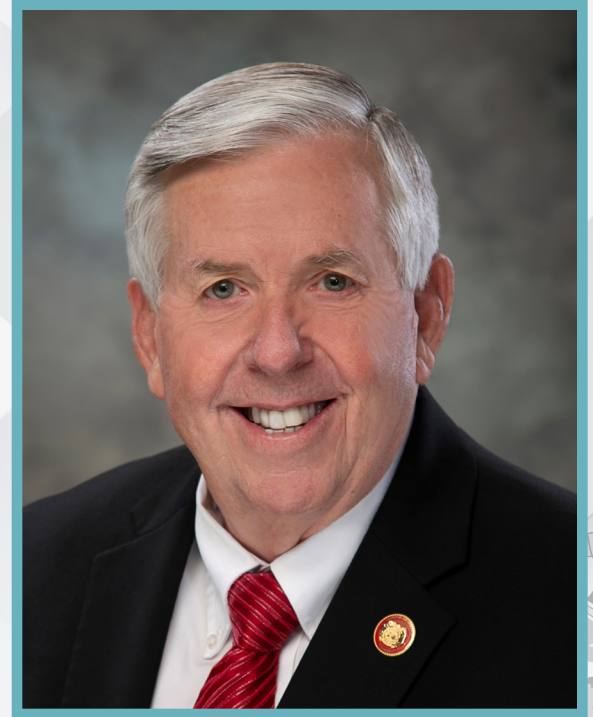
# Governor of the State of Missouri

## *A balanced approach*

When COVID-19 first struck the United States in early 2020, the level of uncertainty we felt and challenges we faced were unprecedented. We have been in a constant state of adaptation as we have learned more about the virus and how it is affecting our residents.

Month after month in Missouri, we continued to stay the course and maintain our balanced approach in our fight against COVID-19. It was vital that we prioritized Missourians' health, especially of the most vulnerable residents, while also doing everything we could to support Missouri's economy. We have seen so many heroes emerge throughout the past two years.

Those working day in and day out on the front lines in public health and in health care, to help residents have the best possible health outcomes, are the heroes of the pandemic. One thing we have always been able to predict is that Missouri would emerge on the other side of this pandemic with resilience and stronger than ever before. Now, we are excited to be able to transition out of pandemic status and look forward to this next endemic phase of recovery for Missouri.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Michael L. Parson in black ink.

**Michael L. Parson**  
*Governor of the State of Missouri*





## Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

### *Future of public health is bright*

We have all learned much during the COVID-19 response and public health recognizes we will continue to learn from research and reviews for decades to come. As we enter this next phase of our state's recovery, we continue to encourage Missourians to safeguard their own health and the health of loved ones through tried and true public health measures.

We are energized to move forward with a focus on decreasing morbidity and mortality among all Missourians, assuring safety in our regulated facilities and enhancing Missouri's public health and health care workforces. Those working in public health, health care and all human service organizations have adapted and communicated effectively to serve citizens - their efforts these past two years have been remarkable. The partnerships bolstered during COVID-19 by public health with aligned partners will reinforce our ability to serve each of you in a more holistic manner with a focus on health equity.

The future for public health in Missouri is bright with tremendous opportunities for collaboration, systems integration and enhanced services to all citizens. We look forward to the challenge and to serving you!



**Paula F. Nickelson**  
*Acting Director*





# Missouri's COVID



## COVID-19 Response



## **Show Me Strong Recovery: Our Pillars** *Expanded public health capabilities with resilience*

When a new virus emerges, public health as a whole, from local public health agencies to large hospital systems, begins to learn and adapt. Our state prioritized four pillars to accelerate recovery and support the health care system in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.





## Missouri State Public Health Laboratory

*Built the testing capacity we needed here at home*

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory has been a central part of the testing pillar in response to COVID-19. Our team's work included specimen testing, supporting external lab partners, assisting new testing providers and coordinating work on testing and supply distribution. In 2021, in addition to continuing to provide COVID-19 testing support, the MSPHL was also able to implement COVID-19 variant sequencing, as well as onboard an electronic test ordering and reporting system to aid COVID-19 testing providers to easily submit samples and quickly receive result reports. This effort also created several efficiencies within the MSPHL and the state's laboratory network.



### Testing Capacity

14+ Million Tests Performed  
by public health partners



### Treatment Options

81,000+ Treatment Courses Distributed  
by the State of Missouri



### Vaccine Availability

8.7+ Million Doses Administered  
by public health partners



## **Show Me Strong Recovery: Missouri Metrics Driving Our Decisions**

*Understanding how the virus is moving and evolving*

We are now entering a new phase of the COVID-19 response as vaccines, tests and treatments are readily available and much of our population has some immunity to the virus. The SARS-CoV-2 virus is expected to continue to circulate in our communities and, therefore, will be considered endemic in the United States. The endemicity also means that surveillance priority will change from monitoring case numbers to monitoring disease severity and societal impact.

Surveillance of key metrics will help us remain vigilant and return to an emergency response state if necessary. The transition of COVID-19 to an endemic disease is not a declaration of the end of the pandemic and does not minimize the continued importance of public health surveillance, investigation and response activities.

Surveillance efforts have been made possible by efforts at the local, state and federal level over the last two years. We will use the metrics below to ensure the availability of the data and information needed to monitor COVID-19 trends, and promptly identify and respond to emerging concerns.



**Local Outbreaks**



**Hospitalizations**



**Deaths**



**Variant Sequencing**



**Sewershed Testing**



**Positivity Rates**  
(Reporting Hospitals Only)



**Case & Illness Reports**

## COVID-19 Community Levels

*Objective: when and where COVID-19 cases are occurring*



**Cases in the last 7 days**

####

## COVID-19 Impact

*Objective: disease severity*



## Variant Tracking

*Objective: track new and current variants*

## Show Me Strong Recovery: Public Health

*New objectives focused on endemic surveillance*

As the pandemic continues to evolve it is important that we continue to have a robust yet flexible approach to surveillance for COVID-19. The approach must continue to provide the data needed to enable local and state health officials to (1) identify when and where COVID-19 cases are occurring; (2) determine what SARS-CoV-2 viruses are circulating and rapidly detect mutations and new variants; and (3) measure the disease severity and impact of COVID-19-associated illnesses.



# Pandemic Response

*Before April 1, 2022*



# Endemic Surveillance

*As of April 1, 2022*

- **Dashboard Reporting Frequency**  
Daily Reporting (Sunday - Saturday)
- **Data & Metrics**  
Emphasis on individual case reporting & developing new data connections
- **Vaccine, Testing & Therapeutics**  
Provided for free to citizens through the federal government to mitigate disease spread & impact
- **Case Data Publication**  
Cases and 7-day total, as well as local & statewide positivity rates, published by the state
- **Contact Tracing**  
Universal case investigation & contact tracing
- **PPE Warehouse**  
Established Missouri PPE warehouse
- **Information**  
COVID-19 hotline and website resources including MOPStopsCovid.com

- **Dashboard Reporting Frequency**  
Reduced Reporting (Weekly)
- **Data & Metrics**  
Emphasis on tracking COVID-19 disease severity through hospital surveillance & preserving data flows
- **Vaccine, Testing & Therapeutics**  
Continues as long as federal resources persist, but will shift to traditional health care delivery over time
- **Case Data Publication**  
Total cases for last 7 days published once per week by the state
- **Contact Tracing**  
Encouraged at local level for vulnerable populations
- **PPE Warehouse**  
Maintain PPE supplies for emergency preparedness
- **Information**  
COVID-19 hotline and website resources including MOPStopsCovid.com



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