

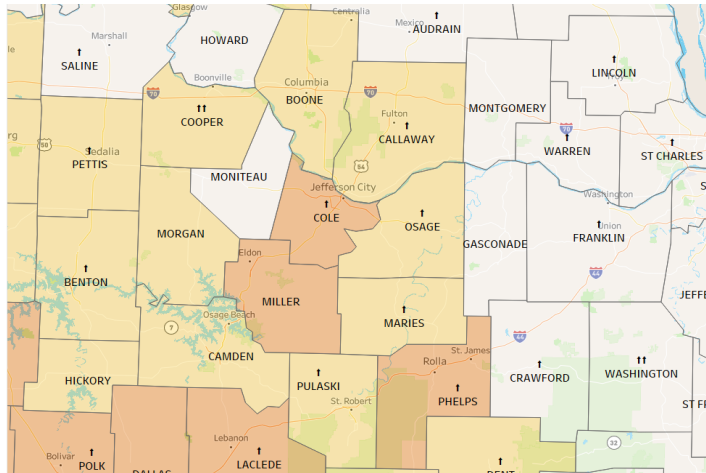
COVID-19 Hotspot Advisory

Cole and Osage Counties (and surrounding area)

July 30, 2021 (based on data July 14 - 28)

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

MOSTOPSCOVID.COM



Current COVID-19 Severity based on State Averages

Typical
 Above Average
 High
 Severe

SITUATIONAL SUMMARY:

The percentage of people fully vaccinated in **Cole and Osage is 39.0% and 27.5%**, respectively. Experts say at least 70% - 80% of people, depending on the type of variant virus, need immunity to provide the best chance of minimizing spread within a community.**

In recent weeks, most areas of Missouri have experienced a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The Delta variant is the predominant cause. **Cases in Cole (363) and Osage (49) have increased within the past 14 days.** Hospitals in the region are seeing resource strain from dramatically increased numbers of COVID-19 patients and hospitalizations. An average of 178+ people have been hospitalized in the region over the last week. As a result, several hospitals in the region are at or near capacity. Continued disease spread into Central Missouri is expected.***

Delta Variant Update:

- Delta cases are on the rise in your area and in Missouri.
- The Delta variant appears to spread more easily and poses higher risk of hospitalization than prior strains.
- Social distancing, masking, handwashing, and other precautions remain important.
- Vaccination still shows very effective protection.
- [Video](#) by State Epidemiologist explaining Delta Variant.*

Value of Vaccination for Individuals:

- All approved vaccines are very effective, even against new variants.
- There is no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine, even if you are uninsured.
- Fully vaccinated individuals are less likely to miss work, school, or social functions due to illness.
- Fully vaccinated individuals are not asked to quarantine when exposed to COVID-19 and not symptomatic.

Value of Vaccination for Workplaces/Communities:

- Helps prevent or reduce outbreaks that create high absenteeism in businesses and hamper community social events.
- Minimizes hospital resources for COVID-19.
- Protects nursing homes and other vulnerable people.

Safety:

- Administered safely to millions of people in the U.S. under intense safety monitoring.
- Authorized quickly, without ignoring safety checks, by cutting 'red tape'.
- Protects people from getting sick and especially prevents severe illness from COVID-19.

“The COVID-19 vaccine is Missouri’s pathway to recovery. As we see the more dangerous Delta variant begin to spread in certain regions of Missouri, we strongly encourage Missourians to protect themselves by getting vaccinated as soon as possible.”

— Daniel P. Mehan, President and CEO
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry

COVID-19 VACCINES ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE:

[MOPStopsCovid.com](https://mostopscovid.com)

[VaccineFinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org)

If your business or organization is interested in a COVID-19 vaccine, complete this [form](#).****

The vaccine is the best way to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Everyone 12 years of age and older is now eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination.

*Delta Variant Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IveTPII3-Ak>

** <https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/achieving-herd-immunity-with-covid19.html>

*** <https://showmestrong.mo.gov/data/public-health/>

****Business form: <https://stateofmissouri.wufoo.com/forms/m1l2ergb0572jxi/>