August 7, 2020

Immediate Initiation of Contact Tracing for School Children

The Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, finding it necessary to protect public health and prevent the further spread of COVID-19, pursuant to the authority granted under section 192.020, RSMo, and 19 CSR 20-20.040, hereby orders the following:

Upon receipt of a positive COVID-19 test for any individual at least three (3) years of age but no older than twenty-one (21) years of age, the local public health agency, as defined by 19 CSR 20-20.010(27), shall begin contact tracing such individual as soon as possible, but no longer than twenty-four (24) hours from the time of receipt.

The local public health agency shall prioritize notifying the COVID-19 school point of contact for the individual, so that the school may assist the local health authority with expedited contact tracing.

If a school is notified of a relevant positive COVID-19 test result, the COVID-19 school point of contact will immediately notify the local health authority.

Appropriate control measures, as determined by the local public health agency, shall also be established as soon as possible to protect public health.

This order is limited to the contact tracing of individuals at least three (3) years of age but no older than twenty-one (21) years of age and does not purport to modify any other provision of Missouri law or regulation. Further, this order does not purport to waive federal privacy laws, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”) and its requirement, when applicable, to only release the minimum necessary protected health information to accomplish the intended purpose.

This order shall remain in effect until June 30, 2021.

Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG
Director