



March 31, 2020

Coronavirus—Help is on the Way

The COVID-19 virus continues to spread throughout Missouri, with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) now reporting more than 1,000 confirmed cases statewide. Cases also continue to rise in Buchanan and Platte counties. But help is on the way.

FEDERAL CARES ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

Last week, Congress passed and the president signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Here are some key details on the \$2 trillion stimulus, which provides direct payments to working Americans and helps small businesses:

Direct Payments

Most Americans who earn less than \$75,000 a year will receive a one-time \$1,200 payment. Qualifying adults receive an additional \$500 for each dependent child. For example, a family of four earning less than \$150,000 can expect \$3,400. Individuals earning more than \$75,000, but less than \$99,000, will receive smaller checks. For more information about whether you or your family qualify, go to www.irs.gov/coronavirus.

Increased Unemployment Benefits

The bill also provides more money for unemployed people, with Congress providing an additional \$600 per week on top of existing state unemployment benefits. The bill also extends the length people can receive unemployment benefits to four months. Those who are already receiving unemployment payments will continue to get help. If you or a family member are facing job loss, you can apply for unemployment benefits at <https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus>.

Forgivable Small Business Loans

Small businesses (those with 500 or fewer employees) may now qualify for forgivable loans covering two months of payroll and certain business operating expenses. As long as businesses keep their workers employed, the loans are forgiven. For information on whether your business qualifies for a forgivable loan, and how to apply, visit the U.S. Small Business Administration's website (www.sba.gov).

THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD MOBILIZED

The governor mobilized the Missouri National Guard to assist in the response to COVID-19. The Guard will coordinate with DHSS and the

Department of Public Safety to transport medical supplies and equipment, help set-up testing sites and provide logistical expertise.

I am grateful for the dedication of the brave men and women of Missouri's National Guard, especially those who serve with the 139th Airlift Wing in St. Joseph. Like other first responders and the countless medical professionals sacrificing and spending long hours to fight COVID-19, these public servants risk their own lives to keep us safe.

RESOURCE GUIDE FROM MY OFFICE

My office has a quick guide of resources to help you and your family navigate this difficult time. The guide, posted on my Senate website at www.senate.mo.gov/mem34, includes links to federal, state and local governments, local schools, utilities and chambers of commerce to keep you informed about the COVID-19 virus and connect you with critical services. We'll continue to keep it updated.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

I continue to be amazed by the efforts of individuals, groups and businesses as they step forward to help during these troubling times. One local company taking the lead is Hillyard, a St. Joseph manufacturer of EPA-approved cleaning disinfectants, soaps and hand sanitizers. While support staff at the company is working from home, the company's production employees are at the plant, meeting the demand for these essential products. I'm proud to have companies like Hillyard in my district!

In these uncertain times, it is also important to have accurate information. For up-to-date information about the coronavirus in Missouri, or if you think you may have symptoms, please visit www.health.mo.gov.

As always, I'm honored to represent you in the Missouri Senate. Please be sure to follow me on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date information on this situation.