

COVID-19 Hotline Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. - Noon

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## Director of Public Health - Rapid Notification Order

The intent of this order is to require reporting for test results, hospitalizations and deaths of individuals affected with COVID-19, in order for DPH to institute appropriate investigation and control measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in St. Louis County.

- Mar 31, 2020
- Public Health Orders

### Director of Public Health - Rapid Notification Order

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**St. Louis County Department of Public Health  
2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”)  
Rapid Notification Order**

#### I. Background

The St. Louis County Department of Public Health (“DPH”) has been closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by COVID-19. Infections with COVID-19 have been reported around the world. The first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread of the virus in the United States was reported on January 30, 2020. The first confirmed instance of COVID-19 in St. Louis County was reported on March 7, 2020. A state of emergency was declared in St. Louis County on March 13, 2020, and several executive orders have been issued since authorizing the director of DPH to issue orders, policies, and other rules to implement those executive orders.

COVID-19 is considered an infectious, contagious, communicable, and dangerous disease for purposes of §§ 192.020-1, 192.139, & 193.300, RSMo., 19 CSR 20-20.020, and other state and local laws. The DPH’s director is the “local health authority” under 19 CSR 20-20.050(1) pursuant to 19 CSR 20-20.010(24), Section 4.130 of the Charter, and Section 600.010 SLCRO, and has been delegated the authority to act on St. Louis County’s behalf for the public health purposes described in § 193.300, RSMo.

19 CSR 20-20.020(2) requires that certain communicable diseases be reported “to the local health authority or to the Department of Health and Services within (1) calendar day” of confirmation of a positive test result. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services recently waived the requirement that such reports be sent to the local health authority but retained the one-day confirmation of a positive test result. Section 192.300 RSMo allows St. Louis County to adopt more restrictive standards than the standards adopted by the state as long as those rules or regulations are not in conflict with rules or regulations authorized and made by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

DPH requires the immediate receipt of test results for COVID-19, the immediate notification of hospitalizations of individuals testing positive for COVID-19, and the immediate notification of deaths caused by COVID-19.

Violating a public health order designed to “prevent the entrance of infectious, contagious, communicable or dangerous diseases” into St. Louis County is punishable as a misdemeanor pursuant to § 192.300, RSMo. Further, “[a]ny person . . . who shall leave any . . . quarantined house or place without the consent of the health officer having jurisdiction, or who evades or breaks quarantine or knowingly conceals a case of contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, or who removes, destroys, obstructs from view, or tears down any quarantine card, cloth or notice by the attending physician or by the health officer, or by direction of the proper health officer, shall be deemed guilty of a class A misdemeanor” pursuant to § 192.320, RSMo.

## **II. Purpose**

The intent of this order is to require reporting for test results, hospitalizations and deaths of individuals affected with COVID-19, in order for DPH to institute appropriate investigation and control measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in St. Louis County.

## **III. Policy**

1. Any laboratory company or healthcare provider who receives a positive test result for COVID-19 shall electronically report that finding to DPH immediately, but not later than six (6) hours after notification of the result.
2. Any laboratory company or healthcare provider who receives a negative test result for COVID-19 shall electronically report that finding to DPH immediately, but not later than twenty-four (24) hours after notification of the result.
3. Any hospital that admits a COVID-19 patient for hospitalization, or later determines that a hospitalized patient tests positive for COVID-19 shall electronically report that admission to DPH immediately, but not later than twenty-four (24) hours after such admission or determination.
4. Any provider or person required under §193.145 RSMo to report a death, if that death is caused by or from complications of COVID-19, shall electronically report that death to DPH immediately, but not later than twenty-four (24) hours after the time of such death.
5. The requirement for notification to DPH does not preclude, replace, modify, change, or in any way effect the reporting requirements of 19 CSR 20-20.020(2).

6. The requirement for reporting a death caused by or from complications of COVID-19 shall not preclude, replace, modify, change, or in any way effect the reporting requirements of §193.145 RSMo.
7. Reporters unable to submit information electronically may request an electronic transmission waiver from DPH. Reporters granted an electronic transmission waiver must report to DPH via fax.

#### **IV. Effective Date**

This order rescinds and replaces the Amended Rapid Results Notification Order dated March 24, 2020. This amended order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.

#### **V. Authorization**

This Order is authorized pursuant to sections 192.006, 192.200 and 192.300 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 19 CSR 20-20.050 of the Rules of the Department of Health and Senior Services and by certain Executive Orders, as may be further amended.

So Ordered this 31st day of March 2020.

By:

Dr. Emily Doucette  
Acting Director  
Chief Medical Officer  
St. Louis County Department of Public Health

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