



# City of St. Louis 30 Day Action Report

*A summary of preventative measures taken by Mayor Lyda Krewson's Administration in response to COVID-19*

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**OVERVIEW:** On March 16, 2020, the City of St. Louis Department of Health received confirmation of its first positive case of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19. In the one month that has followed, Mayor Lyda Krewson, Dr. Fredrick Echols, and the City's emergency response team have continued to take unprecedented, decisive action to flatten the curve of new infections, slow the spread of the virus, and protect the health and safety of more than 300,000 people and businesses. The City recognizes the enormous hardships and challenges presented by the social distancing restrictions that have been enacted, but greatly appreciates the tremendous sacrifices undertaken by everyone to comply. While the region's leading healthcare experts believe the City's early, preventative measures have greatly contributed to saving lives, this current crisis is not over yet. It has revealed far-reaching health, humanitarian, financial, and socioeconomic disparities and challenges that require our attention and a commitment to action rooted in science, data, and informed decisions. The City will continue to coordinate regionally and do everything possible to support a robust COVID-19 response and recovery that benefits ALL St. Louisans.

## WHAT WE HAVE DONE

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- The Department of Health acted swiftly in declaring a public health emergency on March 13 and has since issued **seven emergency orders** that remain in effect, placing historic social distancing restrictions on bars, restaurants, large events, and public gatherings.
- Mayor Krewson on March 23 became one of the first mayors in the State of Missouri to issue a **mandatory, 30-day "Stay at Home" order**, which limits individuals in the City to conducting only essential business and activities outside the home.
- The Department of Health assisted in establishing **five testing sites** available to the public in St. Louis by providing test kits and materials to federally qualified health centers like Affinia Healthcare, Care STL Health, and Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Center.
- The Department of Human Services secured an **additional 200 emergency shelter beds** and vastly increased outreach efforts to unhoused individuals and high-risk populations, working with community-based volunteers to provide support, personal hygiene supplies, and to encourage individuals to go into available housing resources.

- The Mayor's Office and the Department of Health participated in **unprecedented regional coordination** with other elected leaders, public health officials, and healthcare experts from major hospital systems to establish the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force to guide decision making.
- The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry **committed early on to keeping more than 100 parks open to the public**, but agreed to close **more than 70 playgrounds and athletic courts** across the City and park roads to traffic in heavily visited parks, including Forest Park, to give visitors more room to practice proper social distancing.
- The Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families has helped to provide **more than 80,000** free, grab-and-go meals to area youth through coordinating with a broad coalition of public, private, charter, and parochial school leaders, including St. Louis Public Schools, on a new Pandemic Meal Plan.
- Mayor Krewson **closed all City buildings to visitors**, including City Hall, 1520 Market St., and police headquarters, **required mandatory temperature checks** for employees, and **implemented a safe and secure drop-box system** that allows the public to continue doing business with the City
- Mayor Krewson directed all department heads, agency directors, appointing authorities, and fellow elected office holders to allow as many City employees as possible to **work from home** while still continuing to **safely maintain basic, essential services** with a skeleton crew (Police, Fire, EMS, Health, Corrections, Forestry, Emergency Management, Water, and Refuse).
- The Department of Public Safety across all of its divisions implemented **several new safety precautions** aimed at protecting first responders, law enforcement officers, corrections detainees, and the public, including prohibiting in-person jail visits, securing personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees, temporarily suspending interior building inspections, and decentralized Police department roll calls.
- The St. Louis Development Corporation joined the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership in creating the Small Business Resource Program, which provides **zero-interest loans** and other financial lifelines to small businesses impacted by COVID-19 in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County.
- The Department of Health became **one of the first in the region and the state** to publicly release information about positive cases by zip code, age, race, and gender.

## ONGOING EFFORTS

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- The Department of Health and the Mayor's Office are aggressively pursuing additional test kits and supplies to **expand and deploy testing capabilities and contact tracing** across the City, with a focus on underserved residents and our most vulnerable populations.

- The Department of Public Safety and the Supply Commissioner continue to **explore all available options** for securing additional personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks, face shields, gloves, and gowns, hand sanitizer, and other enhanced cleaning materials for first responders and City workers.
- The Department of Health is collaborating with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health and the Missouri Foundation of Health on a new public outreach campaign designed to **directly engage, educate, and inform** individuals living in high-risk zip codes.
- The Department of Human Services is **building upon its emergency response** and expanded shelter capacity by safely and proactively transitioning unhoused individuals and high-risk populations into housing with wrap-around social and health services.
- The Mayor's Office and the Budget Director are working with all department heads to **manage the economic fallout** from the pandemic and its anticipated negative impact on the City budget by developing creative, cost-saving measures and exploring other financial contingency plans for the current and following fiscal years.
- The Department of Health is partnering with the St. Louis Mental Health Board to **increase access** to mental health services for adults and youth experiencing additional anxiety, stress, or grief during the pandemic.
- The Mayor's Office and the City's Chief Technology Officer are **seeking to bridge the City's digital divide** and expand free wireless Internet access needed for telemedicine, unemployment processes, and educational assignments.
- Inside more than 100 City buildings, the Mayor's Director of Operations and the President of the Board of Public Service continue to oversee and implement **routine, professional-grade cleanings** and foggings, which kill pathogens within seconds.
- The Mayor's Office, the Board of Aldermen, and City boards and commissions are **implementing new technology and social media platforms** like Zoom and Facebook Live to communicate regularly with constituents and conduct public business with **transparency** while maintaining compliance with open records and public meetings laws.
- The Mayor's Office continues to follow a **comprehensive, inclusive communications plan** that includes daily engagement with elected officials, healthcare professionals, business leaders, clergy, and other community stakeholders in the City, the region, and across the state in order to provide routine updates, coordinate response efforts, invite input, and to advocate for vital resources and legislation.
- **To protect the safety of the voting public and election judges**, Mayor Krewson is requesting that the City of St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners seek court action to delay the special election scheduled for May 19.

## WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

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- The Mayor's Office and the Department of Health, in consultation with regional elected and healthcare leaders, will **extend the City's mandatory Stay at Home order** (first issued March 23) to continue flattening the curve and avoid a secondary spike in new cases later this summer.
- The Mayor's Office and the Department of Health will **continuously re-evaluate** the extended Stay at Home order based on available data trends and science and anticipate making an informed decision about the future of the order no later than **mid-May**.
- The Department of Health will continue to **enforce all of its emergency orders** aimed at flattening the curve that place restrictions on businesses and require the public to stay home as much as possible, practice robust social distancing, and good personal hygiene.
- The Mayor's Office will continue to **work aggressively in a bipartisan fashion** to fight for and secure as much federal and state dollars and resources as possible to aid in the City's COVID-19 response and recovery.
- The Mayor's Office will remain firmly committed to ensuring any additional investments are spent equitably across the City along the following priorities: **socioeconomic and health disparities, housing, essential City services, rapidly restarting small businesses, and supporting working families**.
- The Mayor's Office and the Budget Director, working across City departments, agencies, and appointing authorities, will continue to take **appropriate action to stabilize the City's budget**, based on carefully thought out assumptions, projections, and fiscal priorities.
- The Mayor's Office and the Department of Health will collaborate with the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force on **developing measured, thoughtful plans** for relaxing social distancing requirements and transitioning out of the Stay at Home order, allowing businesses to reopen.

*For more information on the City's emergency response to COVID-19, please visit:*

<https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/health/communicable-disease/covid-19>

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