

Elderly: Some of the Most Vulnerable for Different Reasons

High Risk – Those 60 years of age and older are in the “high risk” category for COVID-19. It is recommended that they:

- Cancel any and all non-essential travel.
- Have plenty of nonperishable foods and household goods on hand.
- Identify a friend or family member who can run errands. (Call 211 for assistance from the United Way.)
- Make a back-up plan for caretakers in the event they get sick.
- Be aware of their emotional health.
- Stay in touch with loved ones by phone and email.
- Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for more safety tips.

Criminal Activity – Schemes on vulnerable populations, including the elderly, have the potential to rise as this pandemic continues. Fake promises of protective medical equipment, stories of grandchildren needing immediate money for healthcare, and false charities claiming to help the coronavirus response are all examples of these frauds.

Other known COVID-19 scams could include:

- Investment scams, “get rich” or “recover your money” quick schemes.
- Romance scams, particularly with the increased use of on-line dating services.
- Phishing emails, texts or phone calls, claiming to be from government or helping agencies.
- Inflated or false funeral pricing or scams relating to debts of deceased individuals.
- Fraudulent COVID related services.

Residents are encouraged to never allow someone to pressure them in to making an immediate decision about money. Take the time necessary to research the company or cause to make certain they are a reputable organization and talk to a trusted friend or family member before making these financial decisions.

If you know of a COVID-19 scam or price gouging, please alert the Missouri Attorney General’s Office Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-392-8222. If you are aware of an older or disabled adult who may be subject to bullying, abuse, neglect or exploitation, call the Missouri Adult Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-0210.

The St. Louis County Police Department also stands ready to serve. Please contact the Bureau of Communications or your local precinct.

Donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Needed:

Due to the national and global span of the current pandemic, the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) is not adequately meeting the demand. Thus, the St. Louis County Police Office of Emergency Management is seeking immediate assistance in gathering PPE.

To be clear, area first responders have PPE at this time. This is a forward-thinking decision that will ensure area first responders have the necessary equipment for the duration of the pandemic.

If you or your organization is able to provide this equipment, email EOCdonations@stlouisco.com Officials will respond and coordinate pick-up from any location in the area, state, or Midwest region. For the safety of our responders, we cannot currently accept used equipment, food, drink, open packages, or homemade items.

Items currently needed are:

- Surgical masks
- Nitrile gloves (latex free)
- Safety glasses
- Sanitizing wipes
- N-95 Masks
- Medical gowns
- Goggles
- Face shields
- Disposable coveralls
- Hand sanitizer
- Booties

Daily Information

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services hotline can be reached at (877)435-8411.

St. Louis County has created a website dedicated to the dissemination of information relating to COVID-19, www.stlcorona.com. Please visit that website or those belonging to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO) for the most current and reputable information.