



**Michael Watson**  
SECRETARY OF STATE



## COVID-19 Tips, Resources and Relief Efforts

*Thursday, June 25, 2020*

### COVID-19

#### COVID-19 Cases in Mississippi

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) reported **1,092 new COVID-19 cases** as of Wednesday, June 24, 2020, which is the **highest number of cases our state has seen in one day**. The newly-released data brings the **total number of COVID-19 cases in our state to 24,516**, with more than 1,000 Mississippians dying from the virus. Health officials say the cases are rising fastest among young adults not following proper safeguards, such as wearing a mask or keeping a safe distance from others.

**MSDH officials advise anyone waiting for test results to remain at home if you have symptoms of COVID-19.** Do not go to work or leave home. Stay in a specific room at home and avoid contact with other family members as much as possible. If you are awaiting results from a routine screening test, but have no symptoms, you may return to work under the guidance of your employer (unless otherwise directed by the Mississippi State Department of Health).

It is important to remember that we are still in the middle of a pandemic. Record-breaking numbers are proof that we need to do more to protect the health of those all across the state. We should not have to rely on Executive Orders or mandates to encourage us to do what's best for our health and safety. Let us all continue to be wise and take care of ourselves, our neighbors, our friends and our families to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For questions and concerns, call the Mississippi Coronavirus Hotline at **877-978-6453** any day between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

[COVID-19 Prevention and Safety Guidance](#)

[Click here to view a map of COVID-19 cases.](#)

#### Back to Business MS Grant Program

The Mississippi Development Authority is now accepting applications for the Back to Business Mississippi Grant Program. The program provides **grants between \$1,500 and \$25,000 to help businesses recover from the economic impact of COVID-19**, including operating expenses and salaries. To be eligible for the grant, a



business must be in good standing with the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office as of March 1, 2020.

**Eligible businesses must apply for grants through the Back to Business Mississippi Grant Program website.** There is no fee to submit an application, and the program will not ask for credit card information. For assistance with your application, call 1-800-462-9980 or 601-228-1774.

[Click here to apply.](#)

[Click here to read the eligibility requirements.](#)



## **MDE Releases Considerations for Reopening Mississippi Schools**

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has partnered with a workgroup of nine superintendents from a diverse range of school districts to outline the key issues districts need to address to reopen schools. The issues are outlined in a specific document that presents a three-month timeline of strategies for school leaders to consider to plan for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

MDE representatives say the document is intended to be used as a resource and starting point for districts to consider local needs in collaboration with stakeholders. It will be updated in three-month intervals to adjust to changes with the COVID-19 outbreak.

[Click here to read the Considerations for Reopening Mississippi Schools.](#)

## **Executive Orders**

### [Executive Order 1498](#)

Executive Order 1498 orders the State Flag to be flown at half-staff on all buildings and grounds of the State of Mississippi until sunset on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 in memory of Deputy Sheriff James E. Blair.

### [Executive Order 1497](#)

Executive Order 1497 amends Executive Order 1471 to extend its duration until 11:59 p.m. on July 1, 2020. EO 1471 creates additional protections from civil liability for healthcare workers and facilities assisting outside their normal operations in the response to COVID-19.

### [Executive Order 1496](#)

Executive Order 1496 extends the Safe Return order until Monday, June 29, 2020 at 8 a.m. with a few amendments.

### [Executive Order 1495](#)

Executive Order 1495 rescinds provisions from prior Executive Orders which authorized the board of supervisors of any county, the governing authority of any

municipality, and any local school board to grant certain employees administrative leave with pay to prevent the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

[Click here to view all Executive Orders.](#)

### **Emergency Contact Information**

<a href="#"><u>Office of the Governor of Mississippi</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Tate Reeves</u></a>	(601) 359-3150 <a href="mailto:governor@govreeves.ms.gov"><u>governor@govreeves.ms.gov</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mississippi State Department of Health</u></a>	(877) 978-6453
<a href="#"><u>Mississippi Emergency Management Agency</u></a>	(601) 933-6362
<a href="#"><u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u></a>	(800) 232-4636
<a href="#"><u>Mississippi Department of Employment Security</u></a>	(601) 855-3133 1-888-844-3577 ( <i>toll-free</i> ) 1-888-772-0061 ( <i>toll-free</i> )