



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE



COVID-19 Tips, Resources and Relief Efforts

Thursday, September 24, 2020

COVID-19

COVID-19 Cases in Mississippi

As of Thursday, September 24, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) reported **737 new COVID-19 cases and 4 new COVID-19 related deaths**, bringing the **total number of COVID-19 cases in our state to 95,310** and the **total number of deaths to 2,874**.

All Mississippians can be tested for COVID-19 free of charge by appointment at regularly scheduled county health department locations. MSDH offers free drive-through testing in partnership with the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). A prescreen with a UMMC clinician is required before visiting a county health department or similar testing site. To start the process, call (601) 496-7200 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Saturday, or complete the UMMC COVID-19 online patient screening form.

[Click here to view the online patient screening form.](#)

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

MEMA Disbursing Millions of CARES Act Funds to Counties and Cities



The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is urging local and county governments to apply for the CARES Act funds available through the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Program. Governor Reeves and MEMA launched the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Program in August after MEMA was allocated \$70 million of CARES Act Money through the legislature to reimburse county and municipal governments for COVID-19 expenses.

As of last week, **MEMA has paid out more than \$6,171,912.92 to counties and municipalities whose projects have been approved for reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses**. Those counties and municipalities include: Alcorn, Chickasaw, Hancock, Jones, Perry, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Wayne counties, and Clinton, Oxford, Southaven, Starkville and Vicksburg.

According to Senate Bill 3047, monies must be obligated by November 30 or the remaining funds will be returned to Governor Reeves. **Local and county governments wishing to apply for CARES Act funds must do so before the October 15th deadline.**



[Click here to learn more.](#)

USDA's Second Round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will implement an expansion of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that ended on September 11, 2020. The second round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) will provide an **additional \$14 billion dollars for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.**

CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of commodities – Price Trigger Commodities, Flat-rate Crops and Sales Commodities. Under CFAP 2, there is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies, or limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits when members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. In addition, this special payment limitation provision has been expanded to include trusts and estates for both CFAP 1 and 2.

The application process for CFAP 2 started Monday, September 21, and will run through Friday, December 11.

[Click here to apply for CFAP 2.](#)

[Click here to learn more about CFAP 2.](#)

MS State Fair & COVID-19

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) announced the details of the 161st Mississippi State Fair, which runs Wednesday, October 7, through Saturday, October 18. According to MDAC, face masks will be required for entry to the Mississippi State Fairgrounds and social distancing is encouraged in accordance with state guidelines for outdoor events. In addition, fair rides will be sanitized between each ride and hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the grounds. Any guests who feel unwell or may have underlying medical conditions are advised to stay home.



[Click here to read more about COVID-19 guidelines for the MS State Fair.](#)

Executive Orders

[Executive Order 1524](#)

Executive Order 1524 extends the September 15th budget deadline for 24 Gulf Coast and inland counties.

[Executive Order 1523](#)

Executive Order 1523 declares a State of Emergency for the State of Mississippi as a result of the impending impact of Tropical Storm/Hurricane Sally.

[Executive Order 1522](#)

Executive Order 1522 extends the Safe Return order with a few amendments aimed to relax restrictions.

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

Emergency Contact Information

[Office of the Governor of Mississippi](#)
Tate Reeves

(601) 359-3150
governor@govreeves.ms.gov

[Mississippi State Department of Health](#)

(877) 978-6453

[Mississippi Emergency Management Agency](#)

(601) 933-6362

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

(800) 232-4636

[Mississippi Department of Employment Security](#)

(601) 855-3133

1-888-844-3577 (*toll-free*)

1-888-772-0061 (*toll-free*)

