



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE



COVID-19 Tips, Resources and Relief Efforts

Thursday, October 22, 2020

COVID-19

COVID-19 Cases in Mississippi

As of Thursday, October 22, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) reported **958 new COVID-19 cases and 8 new COVID-19 related deaths**, bringing the **total number of COVID-19 cases in our state to 113,081** and the **total number of deaths to 3,231**.

State Health Officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs, says mask usage rapidly declined after Governor Reeves lifted the statewide mask mandate earlier this week. He urges all Mississippians to comply with public health guidance and "mask up" when appropriate.

In an effort to keep Mississippians up to date about mask mandates across the state, The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency created an interactive map that highlights which cities and counties are currently under a mask mandate.

[Click here to view the mask mandate map.](#)

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

Governor Announces Additional COVID-19 Measures

Mississippi's COVID-19 cases have slowly increased over the last several weeks. To help slow the spread of the virus, **Governor Reeves issued Executive Order 1527, which places a 10% capacity requirement on healthcare facilities across the state.** If hospitals cannot maintain 10% of their capacity for COVID-19 patients, they must delay elective procedures. The Governor's Office says the decision was a vital part of the effort to prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed.



Governor Reeves also announced additional targeted measures for counties which meet the standards established during the summer wave. In these counties, indoor social gatherings should be limited to groups of 10. Outdoor social gatherings should

be limited to groups of 50. Face coverings are required while indoors and interacting with another person without social distancing.

The counties with additional COVID-19 safety measures are Chickasaw, Claiborne, DeSoto, Forrest, Itawamba, Jackson, Lamar, Lee, and Neshoba. According to the Governor's Office, in order to set forth additional COVID-19 measures, counties must meet the following criteria:

- More than 500 cases per 100,000 residents over a designated two-week period or,
- More than 200 cases total over the designated two-week period (with more than 200 cases per 100,000 residents).

[Click here to read Executive Order 1527.](#)



Computer Devices to Begin Arriving in School Districts in October

This week, Mississippi schools received the first batch of computer devices ordered through the Mississippi Connects digital learning plan. Mississippi Connects is a program designed to provide **every public school student in Mississippi with the technology to learn at school and at home**. The unexpected need for distance learning provided Mississippi with an opportunity to reimagine the digital learning experience and create an innovative approach to getting students what they need to learn, whether in a classroom or at home.

The first districts scheduled to receive devices are West Point and Tate County. All other districts that ordered devices through MDE's bulk purchasing system will receive computers for their students and teachers throughout October and early November. Districts will follow their own processes for distributing their devices.

[Click here to learn more about Mississippi Connects.](#)

Executive Orders

[Executive Order 1527](#)

Executive Order 1527 places a 10% capacity requirement on healthcare facilities across the state, and sets additional COVID-19 safety measures for Chickasaw, Claiborne, DeSoto, Forrest,

Itawamba, Jackson, Lamar, Lee, and Neshoba Counties.

[Executive Order 1525](#)

Executive Order 1525 replaces the Safe Return Order and its amendments, and combines all social distancing measures into one Executive Order.

[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*)
