

[Share](#)[Tweet](#)[Forward](#)

Dear Neighbor,

I was really pleased that the Missouri House of Representatives on November 9 overwhelmingly approved \$2 million to implement the new statewide pretrial witness protection program created by bipartisan legislation I co-sponsored that became law in September.

The \$2 million appropriation was part of a \$1.28 billion supplemental spending bill dealing mainly with appropriating federal stimulus funds allocated to Missouri to assist the state in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. **The bill passed the House 133-4, and naturally I voted for it.**

The spending bill next needs to be approved by the Missouri Senate which is scheduled to convene on November 19. Since the Senate passed the witness protection bill without dissent, I don't expect Senate approval of funding for the witness protection program will be a problem.

The program will be administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety which has been making plans for how to implement it since September. Law enforcement agencies will need to apply for funding to protect witnesses in specific cases and outline how they plan to protect them and estimate the costs.

I'm confident that assuring witnesses they will be effectively protected will result in more people stepping forward to testify in cases involving homicides and other serious violent crimes. Most persons want to do the right thing, but many people are reluctant to testify when they feel it would put their lives, or the lives of their families, in jeopardy.

**As of Nov. 11, we have had 161 homicides this year in KCMO and 19 in South Patrol including one in the wee hours of Nov. 9 in the 11800 block of Blue Ridge Blvd. just a few blocks from my home. The previous annual record for homicides in our city was 151 set in 2017 and 2019.**

More eye witness testimony will help successfully prosecute and incarcerate more of the persistent violent offenders responsible for so many of KCMO's most violent crimes and keep them from hurting more victims.

On a more pleasant subject, I would like to congratulate the leaders of the Hickman Mills Educational Foundation on their successful virtual silent auction that concluded at midnight Friday, Nov. 6, and raised approximately \$15,000 for scholarships for Ruskin High School students and grants to district teachers for special projects.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my assistant [Brian Farmer](#) is ready to help you.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and family who might want to know the latest news about what is happening in state government and about important local events. Be safe and God bless!

Yours in Service,

*Mark A. Sharp*

# **Mark A. Sharp Weekly Capitol Report**

## **Friday, November 13th, 2020**

### **PARSON ADDS COVID LAWSUIT IMMUNITY TO SESSION AGENDA**

Gov. Mike Parson on Nov. 12 expanded the current special legislative session to add a bill that would provide businesses, schools, churches and medical providers with legal immunity from lawsuits related to COVID-19.

The expansion came two days after the House of Representatives passed a \$1.28 billion supplemental budget bill that was the original purpose of the session.

Parson said medical providers, businesses and other organizations need to be able to function without fear of lawsuits over COVID-19 exposures and related issues. Critics of the proposal say legal immunity will encourage reckless behavior and further worsen the spread of the coronavirus in Missouri, which already is shattering records for case growth on a regular basis.

The governor originally called the special session so that lawmakers could reallocate federal coronavirus relief funds that must be spent by the end of the calendar year, as well as to address a few other midyear spending priorities such as funding the new pretrial witness protection program created by legislation I co-sponsored that passed in September during this year's first special session..

The House of Representatives passed the supplemental budget measure, House Bill 14, by a vote of 133-4 Nov. 10. I joined the overwhelming majority of my colleagues in voting for it. The bill next must be approved by the Senate which is scheduled to convene on Nov. 19.

The COVID-19 liability bill is expected to start in the Senate, with the House not returning to consider it until the first week of December. The special session must end no later than Jan. 4. The 2021 regular legislative session will begin two days later on Jan. 6, when newly elected and reelected lawmakers including me will be sworn in.

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## STATE REVENUE COLLECTIONS DROP 4.2 PERCENT IN OCTOBER

Net state general revenue collections decreased 4.2 percent in October from a year ago, going from \$659.6 million in October 2019 to \$631.9 million this year, as the state's monthly revenue intake continued a downward trajectory following a massive infusion of cash in the early months of the 2021 fiscal year due to a three-month delay in the 2020 income tax filing deadline.

This year's April 15 income tax filing deadline was pushed back to July 15 to give Missouri taxpayers a reprieve during the early weeks of the COVID-19 crisis. While the delay caused revenue collections to slow to a trickle during the final months of FY 2020, that delayed revenue flowed into the state treasury during the first two months of FY 2021. That influx, however, appears to be over.

Despite the decline in revenue collections in October, year-to-date net collections through the first four months of FY 2021 were still up 25.3 percent compared to the same period in FY 2020, going from \$2.97 billion last year to \$3.72 billion this year, based on the strength of July and August collections.



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**Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson**

Office of Communications

November 12, 2020

### **GOVERNOR PARSON ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN STATE'S K-12 SCHOOL QUARANTINE GUIDANCE**

JEFFERSON CITY — Today, Governor Mike Parson, the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), and the Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education (DESE) announced modifications to Missouri's K-12 school reopening and operating guidance.

The large number of students and school staff members quarantined in recent weeks has presented a significant strain for educators, school leaders, and Missouri families alike.

"We know that COVID-19 is not going away soon, so it is important that we continue to evaluate the guidance we're issuing at the state level to make sure our procedures are sustainable for the next several months," **Governor Parson** said. "We have been working hard with DESE and DHSS to find a solution that allows us to continue providing the high-quality education our students deserve while still keeping them, our teachers, and all school staff members safe."

Under the updated guidance, proper mask wearing may now prevent individuals from being identified as close contacts in K-12 schools that have implemented a mask mandate. This means that if both individuals at school – the person diagnosed with COVID-19 and the person exposed to the positive case – have masks on and are wearing them correctly, the individual exposed does not need to quarantine.

Exposed individuals should self-monitor for symptoms and stay home at the first sign of illness. They should also continue to wear a mask at all times to further reduce the likelihood of transmitting the virus. The person who tests positive for COVID-19 is still required to isolate at home.

Close contacts in K-12 schools should continue to quarantine at home for 14 days if (1) their school does not require students and staff to wear masks, or (2) the mask was not being worn appropriately by either the person diagnosed with COVID-19 or the person who was exposed.

"Schools that are consistently implementing COVID-19 mitigation strategies remain among the safest places for our students," **Governor Parson** said. "We believe this change will lead to more schools encouraging proper mask usage, helping to further protect students and educators from the spread of the virus."

At today's briefing in the State Capitol, Governor Parson was joined by Dr. Rachel Orscheln, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Washington University and St. Louis Children's Hospital. Dr. Orscheln has worked closely with DHSS and DESE throughout the pandemic, providing expertise to ongoing conversations related to K-12 school reopening and operating guidance.

“Given the high rates of COVID-19 in our communities, it is inevitable that some children and adolescents will test positive,” **Dr. Orscheln** said. “We also know that some of these children will likely, at some point in their illness, be at school. However, we have learned that in schools where students and staff are always wearing masks and practicing physical distancing, this virus does not spread as easily as it does in other places where these strategies are not always used.”

Governor Parson was also joined at the briefing by Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Margie Vandeven.

“As COVID cases increase across the state, we understand that the virus is not going away quickly. Rigorous mitigation strategies and reasonable quarantine protocols will help provide our students onsite learning opportunities more consistently,” **Commissioner of Education Margie Vandeven** said. “Our teachers and school leaders have worked tirelessly to meet the needs of our students throughout the first quarter, but the current structure is not sustainable long-term. Students and their families struggle to keep up with coursework in a distanced model of instruction when students are temporarily quarantined, and many districts have been forced to suspend in-person learning opportunities after large numbers of school staff members were directed to quarantine.”

In addition to mask wearing, adequate social distancing and proper hand hygiene continue to be important in combatting the spread of COVID-19.

“Schools and local health officials are encouraged to monitor health data in their schools and alert DESE and DHSS at the first sign there may be a rise in cases due to transmission in schools,” **Commissioner Vandeven** continued. “We want to be sure we’re working with state health leaders to monitor this change in guidance and make any adjustments necessary to keep students and school personnel safe as we move forward.”

In efforts to keep schools open, Governor Parson and his administration continue to emphasize that Missourians must work together to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by implementing the three key mitigation strategies: wearing a mask, social distancing, and hand washing.

To view the updated K-12 school guidance, [click here](#).



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 12, 2020**

**Mayor Lucas Statement on Updated State Guidance Regarding  
K-12 Schools Quarantine Period**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas today released the following statement after Missouri Governor Mike Parson and Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Margie Vandeven announced updated state guidance as it relates to quarantine periods in K-12 schools:

“Based upon the advice of our Health Director and given the increasing uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 in our community, we respectfully cannot recommend schools in Kansas City follow the updated non-quarantine guidance shared from Jefferson City today.

“Masks continue to be one of the best ways to slow the spread of this virus, and I hope the governor’s acknowledgment of their benefit will encourage more to wear them. Still, masks are not a substitute for proper quarantine measures in schools or elsewhere—particularly as we’ve seen a concerning spike in cases over the past several months.

“As we have since the onset of this virus, Kansas City appreciates the discretion Governor Parson has given us to set COVID-19 protections fit for our community and that exceed the state’s guidance. We will continue to take seriously the recommendations set forth by our nation’s leading scientific experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As of today, CDC guidance regarding quarantine periods in schools has not changed, even when masks are present at the time of COVID-19 exposure. Kansas City will continue to follow that guidance.

“There remain many unknowns related to the spread of COVID-19. As the Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence noted this morning, there are known cases of transmission in our state to students, teachers, and staff inside of school buildings. I know our teachers and administrators are working diligently to ensure asymptomatic students and staff do not spread this virus to their classmates or their families at home.

“I will continue working with our local, state, and federal health experts to best protect Kansas Citians, and I continue to encourage all to wear masks, wash their hands, avoid large gatherings, and, importantly, stay home when sick.”



# Free COVID-19 Testing

## In Kansas City

For asymptomatic individuals and essential workers with inadequate access to testing

**In partnership with KC Parks & Recreation**

**Friday November 13th  
12pm to 3pm**

Marlborough Community Center  
8200 Paseo Blvd  
Kansas City, MO

**Saturday November 14th  
9am to Noon**

Southeast Community Center  
4201 East 63rd (south entrance)  
Kansas City, MO

**You can register to participate in the study by:**

**Entering this URL into your browser:**

<https://redcap.kumc.edu/surveys/?s=DAXP7D9LEK>

**Holding your smartphone's camera up to this QR code or using a QR code scanner**



Heart to Heart  
INTERNATIONAL



KU MEDICAL  
CENTER  
The University of Kansas

KC @ PC  
Kansas City Direct Primary Care





COMMUNITY BUILDERS OF KANSAS CITY  
HOSTS DRIVE-THRU EVENT:

**FREE TURKEY GIVEAWAY**  
**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
**FREE DIAPER GIVEAWAY**  
**FREE COVID TESTING**  
**FREE FLU SHOTS**

**Location:**

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center  
3700 Blue Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64130

**Date:**

Saturday, November 14th

**Time:**

10:00am - 2:00pm

**For Information:**

DaRon McGee 816-627-2154  
dmcgee@cb-kc.org



**Special Guests:**



**Frank White**  
Jackson County Executive  
& **Teresa White**

**A Special Thanks to  
Our Community Partners:**





INVITE YOU TO THE

# PEACE MAKERS POP-UP



**FOOD, ESSENTIALS, AND COMMUNITY  
RESOURCES DRIVE-THROUGH**

Space limited -- pre-register at:

[cslconnect.org/pm1](https://cslconnect.org/pm1)

or scan:



Saturday, November 14

2-4pm

Central High School Parking Lot

3221 Indiana, KCMO

(Rain or Shine)



Communities  
Creating Opportunity

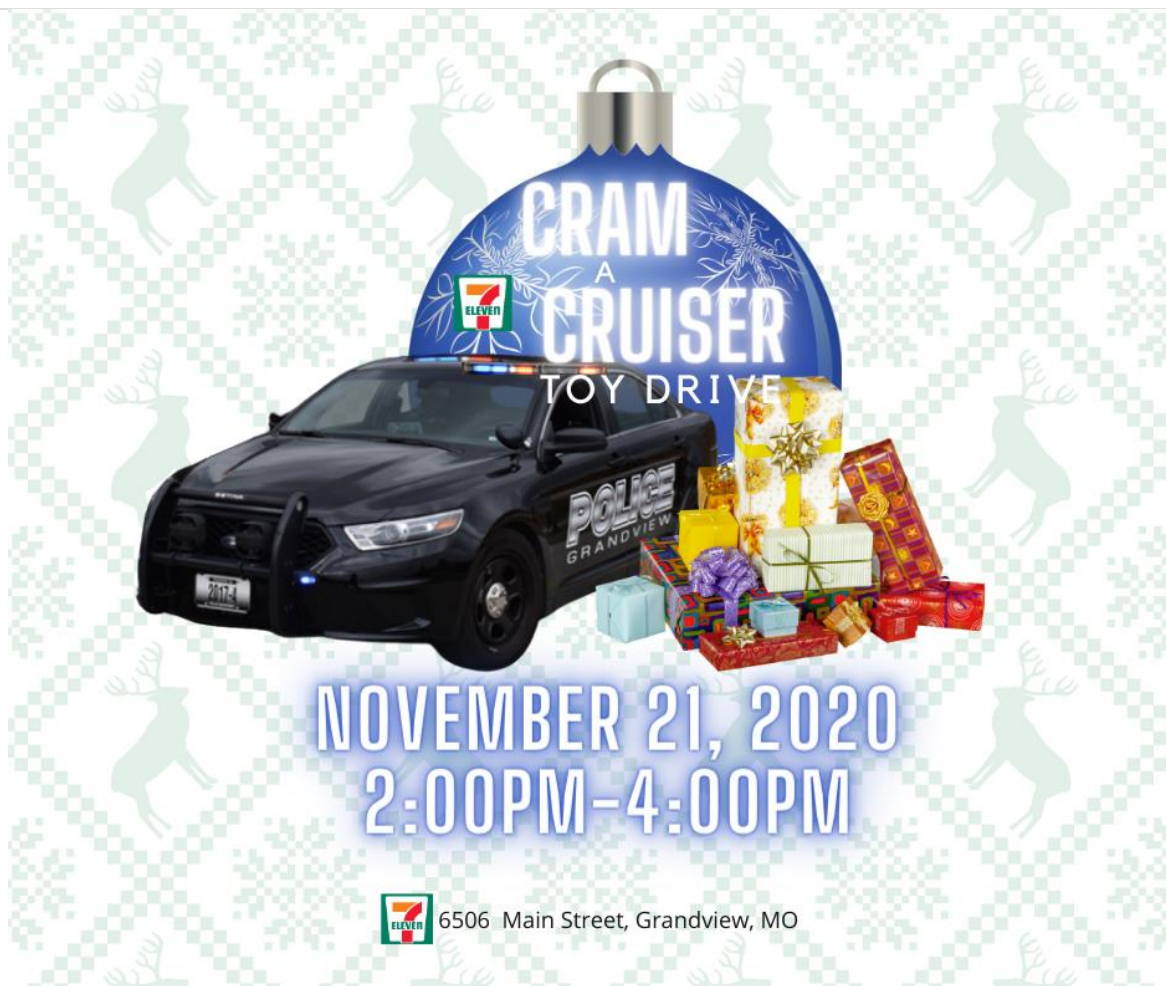


**Project A.C.E.  
All Children Eat**



## Food & Essentials This Saturday

CCO is co-sponsoring The Peace Makers Pop-Up this Saturday (November 14) from 2-4pm at Central High School, which will provide food and essentials to those who need them. Please register ([link in image above](#)) and come by if you need these items. If you don't, please help spread the word by sharing our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts and by forwarding this email to friends and family.



## Need Help Paying for Internet?

The [Internet Access Support Program](#) has funds available to pay for Internet service. If COVID has made it more difficult for you to afford Internet, the IASP can help you:

1. Establish new service
2. Pay off an old balance
3. Pay for ongoing service

The IASP can pay for up to 6 months of service. The program is only open to families with limited income. To qualify, you need to earn less than 2x the federal poverty rate.

Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first served basis. So do not wait. Apply now! Visit [kcconnect.me](https://kcconnect.me) or call **(816) 200-0599** to apply.



### With 80 Calls in One Day, CAC Fall Campaign Focuses on SKC Homelessness Prevention

In just one day last month, Community Assistance Council (CAC) received 80 phone calls from south Kansas City residents facing possible eviction or utilities shut offs – facing homelessness or a cold, dark home.

“We don’t see 80 everyday, but the trend overall is nearly double the number of calls coming in from a year ago, and many of those are brand new to assistance,” said CAC executive director Rachel Casey. “The vast majority

lost jobs due to the pandemic and were getting by with the additional unemployment. Now they may have a new job lined up, but there's back rent and bills due. Add to that a parent needing to be with children schooling from home and families are in impossible situations."

In south Kansas City, CAC is the frontline of homelessness prevention, providing emergency rent or utilities assistance when there is an eviction or cut-off notice, food, diapers, medical support, life skills classes and client assessment and referrals to other key community partners for services CAC doesn't provide.

From Jan. 1 through Oct. 31, 2020, Community Assistance Council (CAC) provided emergency services for 4,246 individuals from 1,238 families. "That's a record number of people served by CAC, and there is no indication the need is easing up," Casey adds.

For 2020, through the end of October, CAC helped keep 1,026 individuals in their homes with the heat, light and water on. However, the need is still many times greater than the nonprofit's capacity.

"Right now, at any one time, CAC may have a few hundred people waiting for us to get back to them to see if we have enough funds to help – and we simply don't, but the community can help," Casey said. This month, CAC kicks off A Home for the Holidays campaign, instead of holding its annual fall Gala, to raise funds specifically for homelessness prevention. The Feist Charitable Foundation will match funds up to \$10,000.

Visit [www.cackc.org](http://www.cackc.org) to support this effort.

For CAC's emergency rent and utility assistance, clients must live in the service area of south Kansas City – including all of Hickman Mills and Center and Kansas City part of Grandview School Districts, meet income guidelines of 150% or less of federal poverty levels, and generally have an eviction or cut-off notice.

In addition to rent and utilities, the agency offers services to help stretch budgets and meet other family needs, including food distribution, diapers and pull-ups, medicines and medical devices, and life skills classes. "CAC provides wrap around services and referrals to many community partners, all to support healthier and more stable individuals, families and community," Casey said.

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CAC was established in 1976 and serves all or part of 12 ZIP codes in Kansas City, Mo., from 85<sup>th</sup> Street South, including a population of more than 85,000.

## **Families Scramble to Keep the Lights On As Utility Bills Pile Up - Pandemic Pushing People To The Economic Edge**

See full story [here](#).



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## **Child Care Subsidy**

If you have an eligible school-aged student who is not attending school in person, the Department of Social Services is extending fulltime child care subsidy benefits through December 31, 2020. The extension of this benefit, effective beginning September 1, ensures children remain safe and supervised during the school day and supports working parents to meet the demands of their jobs and stay employed

To increase your benefit:

Contact the Family Support Division by calling  
**855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636).**

If you are not receiving benefits and have a school-aged student not attending school in person, you can apply by:

1. Going [online](#)

2. Completing the [Child Care Application](#) and mailing it to your [local Family Support Division office](#) .
3. Contacting the Family Support Division at **855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636)**.



# Harvest Report



Select  
Saturdays  
9:00 AM - Noon

**NOVEMBER**  
7th, 14th, 21st

**DECEMBER**  
5th, 12th, 19th

**JANUARY**  
2nd, 16th

**FEBRUARY**  
6th, 20th

**MARCH**  
6th, 20th

## Winter Market

HJ's Community Center  
6425 Wornall Road

SUSTAINABLE FARMS  
ARTISAN FOOD  
LOCAL PRODUCE  
HOLIDAY GIFTS

sponsored by



[www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com](http://www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com)

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*Check it out!*

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*Who:*

The KCMO Health Department has partnered with the Harvesters Community Food Network to help individuals and families in need of food assistance.

*What:*

Variety fruits and vegetables available at no cost to you

*When:*

2nd Tuesday of every month, starting at 1:30pm until supplies run out

*Where:*

KCMO Health Department in the UMKC Health Sciences District  
2400 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108

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## South KC Mobile Food Pantries

With so many people out of work due to the coronavirus pandemic, a growing number of families in south Kansas City are being forced to rely on community food pantries such as Community Assistance Council's to have enough to eat.

Fortunately, Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to five sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

**Center District Warehouse**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with Three Trails Community church.

**Evangel Church**, 1414 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

**Ruskin High School**, 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and food will be loaded in the vehicles when they reach the school by staff and student volunteers. This event is sponsored by the school and Community Assistance Council.

**Colonial Presbyterian Church**, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

**Center High School**, 8715 Holmes Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as long as food is left on the third Saturday of the month. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

1 of 1



# COVID-19

## FREE TESTING CLINIC

*Testing symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals*

*Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred*



**Monday - Friday**  
**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

*Lunch will be held from 11:50 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.,  
and there will not be testing during this time.*

Visit [jacohtd.org/events](https://jacohtd.org/events) to see  
dates + locations and to register.

*Testing provided by the Jackson County Health Department*

**Truman Medical Centers has available services for Jackson County residents during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.**

If you are experiencing a fever, a new cough or new shortness of breath, you can call **404-CARE (2273)** and speak to a health care professional to be screened for COVID-19.



## **Coronavirus Facts and Resources**

### **Kansas City**

If you would like to receive updates about what the City is doing in response to the coronavirus, **text COVIDKC to 888777** or go online to [kcmo.gov/coronavirus](https://kcmo.gov/coronavirus)

### **Missouri**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a [hotline](#) for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-19.

The statewide hotline number is **877-435-8411**. The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

# UNEMPLOYMENT

## **How to File?**

If you're eligible, you'll need the following:

1. Your Social Security number;
2. Any amount you were paid in the past week, before taxes and deductions;
3. The name and mailing address of each job you worked in the past 18 months;
4. The dates you started and ended work at each of those jobs.

If this is your first time filing for unemployment please watch [this video](#) on unemployment basics. Visit [uninteract.labor.mo.gov](https://uninteract.labor.mo.gov), create an account and file your claim. If your job loss is related to coronavirus issues, make sure to check a box that says "COVID-19" in your application to waive a requirement to search for a new job amid the crisis.

Missouri provides benefits for up to 20 weeks, which can be extended to 33 weeks under the federal provisions.

The state will pay you up to \$320 per week, and the federal government will provide \$600 on top of whatever you get from the state for each week you're on unemployment prior to July 31.

Benefits can be paid within 22 days unless there is an issue with your eligibility, which on average can take 4-6 weeks to resolve.

You should continue filing weekly requests for payment even if you have not yet received benefits.

Regional Claims Center representatives are available by phone Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM by calling:

**Kansas City Claims Center: 816-889-3101 or visit**

[Missouri Unemployment Website](#)

Please visit the Missouri Department of Labor's website for more information about COVID-19 FAQ's for Businesses and

Workers: <https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus>

US Department of Labor has a few sites dedicated to Families First Coronavirus Response Act.



<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>  
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>

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**GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS  
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator**

**SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide**

**KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.**

**Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.**

**KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.**

**A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.**

**Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at [www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com), or by downloading our NEW**

mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



**Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards**

**Tips Hotline**

**816-474-8477**

**Web Tips**

**[www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)**



***State Representative Mark A. Sharp***

**Missouri House of  
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**Please don't hesitate to  
contact me with any feedback,  
questions or ideas!**