The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) activated a statewide public hotline for citizens or providers needing guidance regarding the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The hotline can be reached at **877-435-8411**.

Those who may be at risk for COVID-19 are encouraged to utilize this hotline or call their health care provider or local public health agency to inform them of their travel history and symptoms. They'll be instructed on how to receive care without exposing others to the possible illness.

Simple preventive actions that help prevent the spread of all types of respiratory viruses include:
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.