



State Historical Society of Missouri Needs Public's Help to Document COVID-19 Pandemic in Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA, MO, April 21, 2020 – The State Historical Society of Missouri is requesting help from the public to document how Missourians are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. People across the state are invited to contribute to this new collection. “We are looking for material from Missourians during and in the aftermath of the pandemic,” said Laura Jolley, Assistant Director of Manuscripts at the Columbia Research Center. “Your personal story, journal, poetry, artwork, photos, and video will allow future historians, students, and other researchers to better understand this historic moment.”

The Documenting COVID-19 in Missouri Collection will relate the experiences and observations of Missourians who are in self-isolation, working essential jobs, working from home, or may have lost their job because of the pandemic. SHSMO would like to hear from those who are willing to share their personal medical experiences during this time as well. The collection also hopes to explore how families are coping with homeschooling or teaching online, and how Missourians are coping with the loss of many important and everyday activities in their lives.

Digital materials can be submitted online at <https://shsmo.org/collections/covid> in a variety of formats. Writing prompts are available on the website if the public needs ideas on how their story can contribute to the collection. A physical mailing address is also listed for those with items they prefer to mail rather than send through the online portal. Contributors to the COVID-19 collection may remain anonymous or include their name with the material donated. They may request that their donated material be restricted from public access until a later date. Both adults and children (with parent or guardian consent) are encouraged to submit their story.

The Center for Missouri Studies is the State Historical Society's vehicle for carrying out its mission to promote and disseminate study and teaching of the state's past. Founded in 1898, the Society collects, preserves, publishes, and makes available material related to all aspects and periods of Missouri history. SHSMO also provides educational programs on the cultural heritage of the state through its research centers in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and Springfield.

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