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## CAPITOL REPORT

**January 10, 2021**

Last week I returned to Jefferson City for the 2022 Legislative Session.

Hello Neighbor,

We're back, and we're already hard at work! Last week, House Republicans lost their supermajority with the [resignation of Justin Hill](#). This means they'll need Democrats to pass an emergency clause on the congressional maps once they're finalized—read more below.

This week, we'll be hearing some controversial legislation regarding public education. Thank you to everyone who is showing up to testify against this legislation:

- [Curriculum Censorship \(CRT\)](#)
- [Parents Bill of Rights](#)
- [School Board Recalls](#)

As always, thanks for checking in. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's

anything I can do for you.

Take care,



**Representative Ashley Aune**  
District 14 | (573) 751-3618

## Legislative Update

### HOUSE RESIGNATIONS MAY AFFECT NEW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

A rash of [resignations](#) has cost Republicans their **two-thirds supermajority** in the Missouri House of Representatives at a crucial moment when it could prove necessary to enact new congressional districts in time for candidate filing in February. **The legislature must redraw the state's eight congressional districts this year to reflect population shifts over the last decade.**

House Republicans held a 114-49 advantage over Democrats during the 2021 session. However, the GOP numbers have since dropped to 108 – one short of the 109 votes constitutionally required to override a veto or, more importantly to the current situation, to enact an emergency clause allowing legislation to take effect immediately upon being signed by the governor.

Enacting an emergency clause for the congressional redistricting bill would require Democratic support, which at the moment appears unlikely since the **proposed Republican plan calls for packing Democrats into just two districts and maintaining six safe GOP districts.** Some far-right Republican lawmakers want to gerrymander even further by chopping up a Democratic district in the Kansas City area in an attempt to secure a 7-1 Republican congressional delegation. However, Republican legislative leaders have resisted that plan since it would dilute GOP strength in surrounding districts and potentially cost the party

### AS COVID CASES SPIKE, PARSON ENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY

With COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations hitting record levels in many parts of the state and nation, [Gov. Mike Parson let the state of emergency he declared at the start of the pandemic in March 2020 expire on Dec. 31.](#) **The move drew criticism from medical providers and local officials who noted the pandemic is getting worse, not better.**

Hospital officials in the Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield areas are all reporting sharp spikes in COVID-19 cases and increasingly overwhelmed staff as the highly contagious omicron variant starts to take hold in Missouri while the more dangerous delta variant continues to spread in the state, The Associated Press reported on Jan. 5.

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### GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES NEW REVENUE, MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

[Gov. Mike Parson announced two new additions to his cabinet on Dec. 29 with the selection of Wayne Wallingford as director of the Missouri Department of Revenue and Valarie Huhn as director of the state Department of Mental Health.](#)

Wallingford, of Cape Girardeau, is a former state lawmaker who previously served with Parson in the Senate. After being term-limited in the upper chamber, Wallingford won election to

seats over the long term

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the House of Representatives in 2020 and was midway through his term when he resigned to take the revenue post.

Huhn has been part of upper management at the mental health department since 2014 and was named deputy director in 2020. She had been serving as interim director since November following her predecessor's retirement. The independent Missouri Mental Health Commission chose Huhn as permanent director.

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## District 14 Legislative Survey



**Surveys will close this Friday, January 14, so don't forget to mail your responses or submit them online.**

One of the most important aspects of my job is understanding your views on the many issues facing our community and state. Because I'm unable to speak to every constituent personally, this survey is one of the most effective ways for me to learn more about your stances on potential legislation.

**[CLICK HERE](#) to save money on a stamp and provide your responses online.**

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## Health and Wellness



Saturday morning I joined State Representatives from both Kansas and Missouri to donate blood. [Make an appointment today!](#)

**It's National Blood Donor Month, and I'm working with Community Blood Center to spread the word!** As the nation's blood shortage continues, we're challenging you to #GiveLifeKC this month by donating blood, platelets, or plasma at a CBC donor center. For some added fun when you donate, you can tally your donation toward a State Rep or district of your choice! (PICK ME!!!)

Make donating blood your new habit in 2022. Find a donation location near you and make an appointment today: [smarturl.it/GiveLifeKC](https://smarturl.it/GiveLifeKC)



### Public Health Alert

For the first time this flu season, Missouri is reporting high activity for Influenza with widespread geographic activity. For the week ending on Dec. 25, 2021, a total of 1,907 laboratory-positive Influenza cases were reported. A season-to-date total of 6,788 positive cases have been reported so far .

Flu vaccination is particularly important for people at higher risk of developing serious flu complications. Those at high risk are: children 5 and under, adults 65 and older, pregnant women, those with weakened immune systems, and those with chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes and heart disease. We encourage you to get a flu shot to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community against flu and its associated complications.

#### **Activity Summary:**

- Influenza A (89% of cases, with 6,033 total)
- Influenza B (10% of cases, with 685 total)
- Untyped (1% of cases, with 70 total)

A COVID-19 vaccine and flu vaccine can be given at the same time. Contact your healthcare provider, or find a location near you for either vaccine at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

For more information regarding flu in Missouri, visit [MOStopsFlu.com](http://MOStopsFlu.com).



# COVID DOSES



## Pfizer 12+ Years of Age (mRNA Vaccine)

- 2 dose series, spaced 21 days apart
- 3rd primary dose for those moderately to severely immunocompromised 28 days after completion of primary series
- May receive a booster dose 5 months after completion of primary series

## Pfizer 5-11 Years of Age (mRNA Vaccine)

- 2 dose series, spaced 21 days apart
- 3rd primary dose for those moderately to severely immunocompromised 28 days after completion of primary series

## Moderna 18+ Years of Age (mRNA Vaccine)

- 2 dose series spaced 28 days apart
- 3rd primary dose for those moderately to severely immunocompromised 28 days after completion of primary series
- May receive a booster dose 5 months after completion of primary series

## \*Janssen 18+ Years of Age (Viral Vector Vaccine)

- 1 dose series
- Booster dose given 2 months after first dose

Boosters are administered based upon the patient's age and which vaccine they completed their primary series with. Individuals may receive a different booster than their primary series.

\*CDC recommends having a mRNA vaccine over a viral vector one for both a primary series as well as for any booster.



The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has updated standing orders in accordance with CDC and U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommendations. We are providing COVID vaccines based on the following guidelines as of January 7.

## Follow Me on Social Media

If you don't already, I encourage you to follow me on social media for more frequent updates and opportunities to get involved!



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