



# Missouri Disaster Medical Assistance Team (MO DMAT-1)



## Problem Statement

COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on January 30, 2020. Cases were confirmed in the U.S. early in the year and reached Missouri in March. Soon, each Missouri county was affected, and there was no way to mobilize resources.

## Analyze

MO DMAT-1 team members continue to deploy for mission-specific assignments with sometimes less than a week's notice. Team members have been trained to work in natural disaster settings; however, the proportions of working in a pandemic make the work exceedingly complex. Team members focus continuously on infection control practices, responder health and safety as well as patient outcomes.

The team has created strong working relationships with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri Department of Mental Health, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Missouri National Guard, which is evidenced by the number of assignments requested completed and agency feedback. The team fills shortages and gaps in the public health and medical system, when lives are at risk and time is of the essence.

## Scope

The primary goals of MO DMAT-1 have been: to alleviate the burden COVID-19 has placed on local hospitals, long-term care facilities and mental health care facilities, and local communities across the state; and to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmissions by providing access to a vaccination.

## Photo



\*Some shots of DMAT members in action

## Action

The team's rapid response to emergency situations has protected frontline workers and ultimately saved lives. Critical training and continued partnerships with long-term care and mental health facilities has helped decrease future outbreaks.

## Data

There were 163 members on the team prior to the pandemic. After the huge recruitment effort April and May of 2020, MO DMAT-1 had more than 430 members on the roster. Currently, there are 397 team members.

The MO DMAT-1 Team has completed more than 317 medical missions and 262 logistical missions during the state's COVID-19 response.

## Outcomes

MO DMAT-1 has expanded and adapted to meet the on-going needs and challenges during the state-wide COVID-19 response. The team has expanded its capacity in depth and breadth; increasing the number of team members (almost tripling in size) and training/executing pandemic mission assignments in the areas of Alternate Care Site management, Monoclonal Antibody Centralized Infusion Center implementation, testing for active COVID-19 cases, administering vaccinations, providing staffing coverage for health care facilities and distribution of medication and Personal Protective Equipment.