



Eviction Prevention | Talking Points

About the Regional Response Team:

- The Regional Response Team is a centralized response system, made up of hundreds of service organizations in both Missouri and Illinois, who are working together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and also address the needs of those most impacted and vulnerable to the pandemic and other major challenges.
- Those who are most at risk include people of color, foreign-born residents, the disabled, and seniors.
- We carry out targeted campaigns to identify and address these needs, like needs for PPE for community providers, eviction prevention, and safety protocols for homeless shelters.
- Find out more and stay updated at c19rrt.org.

Key Facts on Eviction Prevention:

- Over 30 million Americans are “at risk” of being evicted in coming months because they can’t pay rent.
- There have been more than 500 eviction filings in Madison and St. Clair County, Illinois combined during the moratorium, and we would expect many more if the moratorium weren’t in place.
- Eviction rates are highest in the Metro East area where there are high rates of racial segregation and poverty
- Evictions cause long-lasting damage:
 - Evictions stay on your record, which makes it harder to rent another place.
 - Evictions cause disruption to children who are in school, especially as many are remote learning and need access to the internet.
 - Evictions make people more susceptible to being infected and spreading COVID as more people have to move from place to place, with friends or in homeless shelters.

- Many people who are at risk for eviction are those who work hourly jobs (retail, restaurants, elective medical procedures) and many of those people have lost their jobs or have had their hours reduced.

What is being done to protect tenants?

- The State of Illinois has temporarily halted evictions until May 1, 2021. However, the Illinois moratorium only applies to “covered persons” who fill out and sign a Declaration and return it to their landlords. Illinois tenants are still protected by the CDC eviction moratorium in effect until June 30, which also requires a declaration form.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have issued a moratorium, or halt, on evictions through June 30, but there are several things tenants need to do to prevent eviction.
- Many local organizations in Missouri and Illinois are partnering together, like through the Regional Response Team, to help tenants know their rights.

How to Prevent Eviction:

(1) Seek government rent assistance;

1. Please call one or more of the numbers below until one of these organizations concludes whether you are eligible for legal assistance.
 - a. Land of Lincoln Legal Aid – 618-398-0574
 - b. Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council (EHOC) - 314-534-5800

(2) Deliver a declaration to your landlord; and

2. A copy of the declaration can be found at C19RRT.ORG/EVICTION.
3. Sign, date, and deliver it to your landlord or other person who has a right to evict you.
4. Keep a copy for your records so you can prove that you are protected by this eviction moratorium.

(3) Continue to pay as much rent as you are able.

5. The CDC Order does not forgive rent. Late fees and charges still apply and would be due when the Declaration is lifted. **For these reasons, we strongly urge you to adhere to the CDC order and pay as much rent as you are able.** You may still be evicted for breaking other parts of your lease, not related to payment.