

Department Source: City Utilities - Sewer/Stormwater

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 2, 2026

Re: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Memorandum of Understanding  
Impacted Ward: Citywide

### Executive Summary

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Columbia and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) so that each wastewater facility or local health department that sends samples to DHSS that are being used for the Wastewater Surveillance Program (WSP) knows that DHSS will not give the samples to any other vendors or parties, and DHSS will only test for things after getting prior approval. This MOU shall be in effect for one year from the date of the last signature to this agreement.

### Discussion

This MOU was established due to the WSP and the Missouri DHSS getting calls about sending facilities' samples to third parties for their own wastewater surveillance. WSP or DHSS wanted to be clear that they are not working with third parties for testing. If a facility or local health department wanted to work with a third party for testing it would be separate from WSP and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

### Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None. This is a voluntary agreement with no monies associated with it.  
Long-Term Impact: None

### Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

#### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

#### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Tertiary Impact: Infrastructure

### Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

### Suggested Council Action

Should Council agree with staff recommendations, an affirmative vote is in order to approve the MOU.