

# **Public Radio Stations of Mississippi Public Broadcasting**

*Quarterly Issues and Programs Report*

*for the period of October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020*

**MINORITY CONCERNS**

**EDUCATION**

**ECONOMY**

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND POLITICS**

**HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE**

**CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**

**ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

*The licensee of the eight-station public radio network,  
the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television,  
has determined that these issues were of importance to the  
citizens of Mississippi during the fourth quarter of 2020.*

*The following list contains the most significant programming addressing those issues.*

# MINORITY CONCERNS

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 10/09/20

Length: 00:01:44

## **Transgender Rights Advocate And Journalist Monica Roberts Dies At 58**

Pioneering transgender activist and journalist Monica Roberts died this week.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/23/20

Length: 00:03:47

## **Major New York LGBTQ Film Festival, Newfest, Goes Virtual**

NewFest, an LGBTQ film festival based in New York, has gone virtual this year.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/30/20

Length: 00:03:51

## **Referendum on ballot could end Jim Crow-era law for statewide elections**

A referendum on the November ballot in Mississippi seeks to remove a Jim Crow- Era law historians say was designed to prevent Blacks from holding statewide office.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/13/20

Length: 00:01:33

## **State needs more low-income housing and funding to help homeless according to advocates**

The need for affordable housing for low-income Mississippi families is a growing problem, especially during the coronavirus pandemic according to housing officials.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/30/20

Length: 00:01:52

## **Public health officials: structural racism leads to poor health, premature deaths**

Public health officials in Mississippi are working to raise awareness about negative effects of racism on care and premature deaths. They say it's a systemic problem.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/07/20

Length: 00:01:38

## **Report finds one Miss. city above Nat'l average for LGBTQ equal rights policies**

Amid the surge in coronavirus cases a national organization says only one city in Mississippi scores above the national average in protecting the rights of the LGBTQ community.

# EDUCATION

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 10/06/20

Length: 00:03:38

## **Many Colleges Aren't Aggressively Testing Students For Coronavirus**

Hundreds of colleges are only testing students if they feel sick or think they were exposed to COVID-19..

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/20/20

Length: 00:01:2

## **Thousands of computer devices headed to school districts, part of 320,000 order**

Computer devices by the thousands continue to make their way to Mississippi school districts for students and teachers across the state studying virtually because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/10/20

Length: 00:01:27

## **Mississippi lawmakers consider year-round school**

Mississippi legislators are considering allowing students to go to school year-round. Experts say using this alternate schedule will allow for additional learning opportunities, replacing traditional summer school.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/19/20

Length: 00:01:30

## **Teacher's organization disappointed with no pay raise in gov.'s proposed budget**

A Mississippi teacher's organization says it's hearing from members who are disappointed the governor's proposed budget for the next fiscal year doesn't include a pay raise.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/20/20

Length: 00:01:31

## **From "acting" to official: IHL names Thomas Hudson president at Jackson State University**

Jackson State University has a new president after a month's long search process. And, it's a name already familiar to the university.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/01/20

Length: 00:01:22

## **Schools working to shorten the digital divide**

Mississippi school districts are working to shrink the digital divide as many students study from home because of the coronavirus, and officials are concerned about education loss caused by the pandemic.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/08/20

Length: 00:01:54

**Jackson State awarded \$420,000 from CDC for COVID 19 marketing campaign**

Jackson State University receives a major grant from the CDC to raise public awareness about the coronavirus, hear from those involved in the marketing campaign.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/16/20

Length: 00:01:31

**A new study shows fewer college graduates are becoming teachers in Mississippi**

As Mississippi continues to face a critical teacher shortage, a new study shows a sharp decline in college graduates deciding to enter the field all together.

# ECONOMY

Program: All Things Considered  
Air Date: 10/16/20  
Length: 00:03:41

## **Furniture Industry Booms Despite The Pandemic**

In North Carolina — and across the country — furniture manufacturers are experiencing an unexpected economic boom despite the pandemic forcing some businesses to close or lay off staff.

Program: Local News Segment  
Air Date: 10/26/20  
Length: 00:01:32

## **New grant program offers relief to renters during coronavirus pandemic**

Mississippians who can't pay rent because of a job loss due to the coronavirus pandemic can now receive help through a new grant program.

Program: All Things Considered  
Air Date: 11/11/20  
Length: 00:03:51

## **Pfizer CEO's Stock Sale Raises Questions About Timing**

Pfizer's CEO sold \$5.6 million worth of stock on Monday.

Program: Morning Edition  
Air Date: 11/13/20  
Length: 00:03:50

## **Vaccine Could Unlock Trillions In Spending, Leading To 'Biden Boom'**

Not all of that saved-up money will come flooding into the economy at once.

Program: Local News Segment  
Air Date: 11/16/20  
Length: 00:01:35

## **Amazon expansion bringing estimated \$50 million economic boost to state**

Work is underway on a new Amazon Fulfillment Center in Mississippi. An economic development official says despite the coronavirus, new investment in the state is up.

Program: Local News Segment  
Air Date: 11/18/20  
Length: 00:01:39

## **Reaction from some lawmaker's mixed on Gov.'s proposed phase out of individual income tax**

Mississippians may no longer have to pay individual income taxes if the governor's budget proposal gains steam with the legislature.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/30/20

Length: 00:01:48

**Retailers expect large turnout for Black Friday amid coronavirus pandemic**

Mississippi Retailers are optimistic they'll see large turnouts as the holiday shopping season gets underway with early Black Friday deals.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/11/20

Length: 00:01:37

**Deadline nears to turnover unused coronavirus relief grants for landlords**

Monday is the deadline for one Mississippi organization to award federal coronavirus relief funds to landlords. Any monies not granted will be sent to the state's unemployment trust fund.

# **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND POLITICS**

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/05/20

Length: 00:01:43

## **Miss. Secretary of State talks Election Day safety at the polls**

Mississippians will be heading to the polls in less than five weeks to cast their ballots.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/06/20

Length: 00:01:32

## **Federal food assistance program extended**

The USDA Farmers to Families Program has been extended an additional month to offer thousands of boxes of free meals to Mississippi families. The Coronavirus has made purchasing food more difficult for some families.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 10/21/20

Length: 00:01:57

## **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez And Ilhan Omar Play On Twitch To Engage Young Voters**

Looking to engage younger and future voters, Democratic Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar took to Twitch, the streaming platform for gamers.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 10/22/20

Length: 00:03:47

## **Democrats Aim To Send Election-Year Message By Boycotting Barrett Vote**

A Senate panel is to vote Thursday on Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court nomination. Democrats plan to boycott the meeting and not participate in the vote to send her nomination to the full Senate.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/04/20

Length: 00:01:29

## **Voters overwhelming say "yes" to new state flag design**

Mississippi voters cast their ballot in overwhelming numbers for a new state flag design.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/09/20

Length: 00:01:45

## **Record voter turnout renews calls for expanding voting options**

There's a renewed interest in expanding voting options in Mississippi, after residents stood in long lines last week to cast their ballots.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/25/20

Length: 00:01:47

**Gov. Reeves extends county mask mandates while medical experts call for a statewide provision**

Half of Mississippi's 82 counties are now under a mask mandate, as coronavirus cases surge. But medical experts are calling on the governor to reinstate a statewide mask mandate.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/09/20

Length: 00:01:37

**State agencies may face budget cuts, lawmakers set sights on fully funding education**

State agencies in Mississippi are expected to see budget cuts as lawmakers try to navigate the effects of the coronavirus and their commitment to fully fund public schools.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 12/15/20

Length: 00:01:30

**Mississippi's six electoral votes cast for President Trump**

Mississippi has cast all six of its electoral college votes for President Donald Trump. Trump won the state's popular vote by an overwhelming margin. The electoral college has recently been criticized, but state officials are defending the process.

## **HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE**

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 10/05/20

Length: 00:02:29

### **As COVID-19 Cases Rise, NYC's Mayor Aims To Rollback Reopening**

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is proposing to shut down schools and non-essential businesses in nine zip codes in Brooklyn and Queens, which have had high positivity rates in recent days.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/13/20

Length: 00:01:24

### **Health officials concerned about potential second wave of coronavirus**

Six major hospitals in Mississippi have zero intensive care beds available because of coronavirus patients, and health officials warn the state could be facing a second wave of the virus.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/23/20

Length: 00:01:18

### **Coronavirus hospitalizations continue to rise in Mississippi**

Hospitalizations from the Coronavirus are on the rise in Mississippi, and Intensive care units in 12 Mississippi hospitals are operating at maximum capacity.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 11/11/20

Length: 00:03:23

### **Public Health Officials Face A Need To Market Coronavirus Vaccination**

News of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine's effectiveness has inspired hope around containing the coronavirus.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/19/20

Length: 00:01:34

### **School coronavirus transmission spikes in Mississippi**

More schools in Mississippi are transitioning to virtual learning as coronavirus cases among students surge across the state.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 12/01/20

Length: 00:00:55

### **COVID surge leads to record number of hospitalizations**

For the first time Mississippi hospitals hit the 1,000 mark for the number of people admitted with the coronavirus according to the state health department.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/21/20

Length: 00:01:24

**Nursing homes begin to vaccinate residents against COVID-19**

Nearly 40 percent of all COVID-19 related deaths in Mississippi are among long-term care residents, and outbreaks in these facilities are rising.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/23/20

Length: 00:01:34

**Record high COVID-19 deaths reported in Mississippi**

Health officials are sounding the alarm as Mississippi reports the highest number of coronavirus related deaths to date, at 79. And they say holiday gatherings will make healthcare conditions worse.

# **CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**

Program: Local News Segment  
Air Date: 10/16/20  
Length: 00:01:23

## **Alarming number of children without health insurance in state**

The number of Mississippi children without health insurance coverage is growing at an alarming rate according to a new study. The coronavirus pandemic will likely exacerbate the problem.

Program: All Things Considered  
Air Date: 10/30/20  
Length: 00:02:34

## **Is It Safe To Go Trick-Or-Treating This Halloween?**

With the pandemic continuing, is it OK to go trick-or-treating on Halloween? Some people are finding creative solutions in hopes of a safe and spooky night.

Program: Local News Segment  
Air Date: 11/16/20  
Length: 00:01:22

## **New study spotlights childhood obesity and possible risks for coronavirus**

A newly released report ranks Mississippi second in the nation for childhood obesity.

Program: Local News Segment  
Air Date: 11/23/20  
Length: 00:01:40

## **Child hunger is on the rise in Mississippi**

Child hunger is on the rise across the country as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. And some of the most food insecure communities in the nation are located in Mississippi.

Program: All Things Considered  
Air Date: 11/30/20  
Length: 00:04:19

## **Students In Southern Oregon Show Signs Of Stress After Catastrophic Wildfire**

Hundreds of students in southern Oregon lost their homes to a wildfire.

Program: Local News Segment  
Air Date: 12/04/20  
Length: 00:01:25

## **Doctors express concern about increased pediatric coronavirus cases**

Coronavirus transmission in Mississippi is surging, and cases are also going up in children. Pediatricians are urging parents to take steps to help slow the spread of the virus.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/29/20

Length: 00:01:32

**Health experts ask residents to keep children safe and avoid new years gatherings**

As Mississippians prepare to bring in the new year, the state's leading pediatricians are advising parents to avoid parties and celebrate at home. Children can often be silent spreaders of the coronavirus.

# **ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/07/20

Length: 00:01:32

## **The 161st Mississippi State Fair opens today**

The 161st Mississippi State Fair is opening today and is expected to generate millions of dollars in revenue for the state, but health experts are concerned about possible coronavirus transmission.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/09/20

Length: 00:01:29

## **Mississippi prepares for Hurricane Delta**

Hurricane Delta is bearing down on the Gulf Coast and is expected to make landfall in Louisiana, but the storm could have a significant impact on Mississippi.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 10/14/20

Length: 00:03:35

## **How Tobacco Plants May Be Key In Preventing COVID-19**

Historically tobacco plants are responsible for their share of illness and death. But two companies are using the plants to produce proteins for a vaccine.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/27/20

Length: 00:03:27

## **Facebook Stops New Political Ads To Try To Limit Misinformation**

Facebook's ban on new political and issue ads starts on Tuesday, a week before Election Day.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/30/20

Length: 00:01:42

## **Today is the final day for public comment on the Yazoo Backwater Project**

A plan that could help control flooding in the Mississippi Delta is being revised. Leaders at the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers are asking Mississippians for their input on the Yazoo Backwater Project. Today is the final day for public comment.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 12/03/20

Length: 00:03:53

## **On Twitter And TikTok, Biden Grandchildren May Offer Viral View Of White House Life**

In the days of counting that followed election night, there was plenty of stress in the Biden and Harris families. And the whole world could follow along.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 12/04/20

Length: 00:01:36

**Chinese Moon Probe To Return Lunar Samples Back To Earth**

A Chinese probe has blasted off from the surface of the moon, carrying the first moon rock samples collected in over 40 years.