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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2020

### First Two Cases of COVID-19 Confirmed in Macon County

The Joint Crisis Communication Team is announcing that two Macon County residents have tested positive for COVID-19. One patient is a female in her 50s who is isolated in the HSHS St. Mary's Intensive Care Unit. The other patient is a male in his 60s. This patient was tested through the Decatur Memorial Hospital Respiratory Clinic and has been self-isolated at home since his symptoms began. Public health officials are working to identify and actively monitor individuals who were in contact with the patients in an effort to reduce the risk of additional community spread and transmission.

Because testing is not widely available to the general public, it is *imperative* that community members, whether feeling ill or well, implement social distancing best practices to limit the spread and contraction of COVID-19. This means staying home and away from as many people as possible as often as possible. If you experience symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath, do not present at a hospital emergency room or doctor's office immediately unless it is a true emergency. Please first call your primary care physician. If you do not have a primary care physician in place at this time, you may call DMH Medical Group at (217) 876-2856, Crossing Healthcare at (217) 877-9117 or SIU at (217) 872-3800. HSHS Medical Group Family Medicine Forsyth is operating a regional respiratory hub. Their hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call your primary care provider if you have any questions. Memorial Health System is operating a respiratory screening clinic at its DMH Express Care East location to screen people for the COVID-19 virus. The clinic at 4455 U.S. Route 36 East will operate seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. People coming to the respiratory clinic should call (217) 876-1200 before they arrive. Patients and visitors to healthcare facilities should be prepared to be screened before entering.

Please respect the privacy of the patients and their families as the patients work to recover.

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#### For more information, please contact:

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