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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2020

### **COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update**

Starting today, the Macon County Crisis Communications Team will be sharing a joint communication updating you on the status of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Macon County. This communication will come at approximately noon each day as necessary. At the time of this press release, we can report that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Macon County.

### **What to Do if You Are Experiencing Symptoms**

If you are experiencing possible COVID-19 symptoms, please do not go to the emergency room. Per the CDC, "Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure." *All community residents* should be taking preventative measures to assist with preventing the spread of illness. A negative test does not mean that someone will not eventually develop symptoms, so all people should be taking proactive measures.

If you experience symptoms, first call your primary care physician. If you do not have a primary care physician in place at this time, you may call Crossing Healthcare at (217) 877-9117 or SIU at (217) 872-3800. Patients and visitors to healthcare facilities should be prepared to be screened before entering.

### **CDC, White House Recommend Cancelling Events**

On Sunday, March 15, the CDC issued a recommendation that events involving more than 50 people should be cancelled or postponed nationwide for at least the next eight weeks to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In a news conference on Monday, March 16, President Donald Trump went beyond that recommendation, urging Americans to avoid crowds of more than 10 people. Everyone should stay home as much as possible during this time.

### **Update on Dining Restrictions at Local Restaurants, Bars, Etc.**

On Sunday, March 15, Governor JB Pritzker announced new restrictions on onsite dining at Illinois restaurants and bars in an attempt to curb community spread of COVID-19.

The MCHD posted guidance on the implementation of this Executive Order on Tuesday, March 17. The City of Decatur and other community partners are providing information and support to local establishments to assist with implementation and support. In determining innovative methods for continuing to provide service, these establishments should be extra vigilant to ensure groups are not gathering inside their facilities. Sick employees and patrons should not enter the establishment.

### **Where to Go for Credible Information**

We encourage the public, press, and community partners to seek information and guidance from credible resources. These resources include the CDC, IDPH, Macon County Crisis Communications Team, and 211.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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