



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2020

COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update

The Crisis Communication Team would like to report that, at the time of this press release, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Macon County. Thus far, fifteen tests have been completed in Macon County, with nine negative test results and six test results pending. Additionally, six Macon County residents have been tested outside of Macon County, with six negative test results. There is also a possibility that a provider has submitted and/or will submit a test to a private lab and the MCHD may not be notified, therefore unable to track that submission. If a private lab test is confirmed positive, the MCHD would be notified at that time. It remains true that Macon County will inform the press and public as soon as possible at the time of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a Macon County resident.

It is safe to assume that COVID-19 is in our community. 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 Be Reminded: Mask Drive Today to Help Replenish Local Supply

The Macon County Crisis Communication Team is accepting donations of homemade masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on Thursday, March 26, 2020, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and each of the two following Thursdays (April 2 and April 9, 2020) at the Decatur Civic Center drive-through (1 Gary K Anderson Plaza, Decatur, IL 62523). These donations will be distributed to Crossing Healthcare, Decatur Memorial Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital.

The donations can include boxed, unused surgical type masks (including N95 masks); clean handmade, sewn masks; unused, wrapped or boxed gowns and exam gloves; hand sanitizer; bleach wipes and alcohol wipes to help with the national shortage during the COVID-19 outbreak. The community should be assured that these donations will be received in accordance with CDC guidelines. For those who wish to make masks, please use [this link](#) (which includes instructions for elastic ties) or [this link](#) (which includes instructions using cotton ties) as a guide. The Crisis Communication team suggests putting them in Ziploc bags in quantities of 25.

Community members should only drop off donations at this designated location at the Decatur Civic Center. Do not bring them to the hospitals or clinics.

Daily PSA: A Reminder About the Executive Order and Essential Businesses

We have been receiving many calls from community members regarding whether or not their businesses can remain open during [Governor Pritzker's Executive Order](#). We encourage business owners to contact the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to discuss the specific details surrounding the Executive Order and what it means for their individual business.

The DCEO can be reached via phone call at 800-252-2923 or email at ceo.support@illinois.gov.

Please Keep Sharing: The Urgent Need for Blood Donations Continues

A Message from the Central Illinois Community Blood Center: We are encouraging blood donations now and in the next 8 weeks to ensure adequate supplies during the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). We are working to prevent shortages locally. We are monitoring credible health agencies for updates on COVID-19 and are responding accordingly. For blood drive sponsor groups that are considering cancelling drives, please work with us on potential options to re-direct donors. There is no known risk to the safety of the nation's blood supply except for lack of donations and there are no reports of spread of this respiratory virus by blood transfusion. Giving blood is critical to ensure an adequate supply to meet patient needs. Learn more about how you can help by donating blood, time, or money by visiting their website at <https://www.bloodcenter.org/>; emailing impact@mvrbc.org; or calling (800) 747-5401.

The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations during this coronavirus outbreak. Healthy individuals are needed to donate now to help patients counting on lifesaving blood. For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Please also note that the American Red Cross Blood is hosting a blood drive every Tuesday from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Decatur's American Red Cross Chapter on 2674 N. Main St. in Decatur, IL.

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For more information, please contact:

Marisa Hosier
Director of Health Promotion and Public Relations
Macon County Health Department
mhosier@maconchd.org