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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 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\*:

- two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Macon County;
- twenty-three tests have been completed in Macon County, with two positive test results, eleven negative test results and ten test results pending; and
- eight Macon County residents have been tested outside of Macon County, with seven negative test results and one pending test result.

*\*Note: 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.*

Upon notification of these positive cases, the MCHD immediately started contact tracing following Illinois Department of Public Health protocol and guidance. Contacts have been notified and provided with appropriate direction. We now know 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.

## **Daily PSA: A Reminder of the Difference Between Isolation and Quarantine**

Per the Governor's Executive Order, every resident of the State of Illinois, and especially those who have been exposed to COVID-19 through travel to a high-risk area or personal contact with a person who has the virus, should be under quarantine even if he or she is not exhibiting any symptoms. Quarantine means limiting contact with other people and only leaving the home when necessary to perform essential functions. These essential functions mean gathering groceries and/or medications for the household, going to work at an essential job, and walking your pets outside while maintaining social distancing best practices.

People with mild confirmed cases of COVID-19 who are directed to stay home by their healthcare provider should remain in isolation to protect others from getting the virus. Isolation means complete separation from other people as much as possible. Isolated people should not leave their home for any reason and should avoid contact with others in their household.

### **What happens if my entire family is isolated?**

If an entire household is isolated and household members need assistance in attaining necessary items, they are urged to dial the local 2-1-1 number. When a household has a mix of isolated individuals and quarantined individuals, one quarantined individual may leave the household for an hour to secure food, medicine and other essential supplies. This protocol applies to the household even if an isolated individual is in the hospital.

### **How should patients be isolated at home?**

The isolated person should avoid contact with other members of the household, including pets.

If possible, the isolation area should be separated from the rest of the household by a door. The patient should have a separate bedroom and a separate bathroom stocked with disposable towels.

All shared bathrooms should be equipped with cleaning supplies. If anyone else in the household becomes ill, anyone who shared the bathroom with that person should be considered at risk for infection.

Food should be brought to the isolated person's quarters. That person should not eat meals with the rest of the household.

Garbage should be bagged and left outside the isolated person's quarters for routine pickup.

Healthy people in the household should monitor themselves continually for elevated temperature and other symptoms with public health supervision as determined.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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