



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 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: What Happens if I Have Been Exposed to COVID-19 from A Confirmed Positive Case?

The Macon County Health Department's Communicable Disease Program works to promote optimal health among Macon County residents by preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases. When a person tests positive for COVID-19, the Communicable Disease nurses spring into action. Staff from our Clinical Nursing Services Division conduct contact tracing investigations for diseases reportable to the Illinois Department of Public Health, including COVID-19. Contact tracing is a critical tool allowing public health officials to connect with those who may be infected or exposed and encourage the appropriate steps to take to limit the contraction and/or spread of the infection.

Resources from the Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce has developed a resource page devoted to helping members navigate the situation surrounding COVID-19 in relation to their businesses. In a message on their website, <https://www.decaturchamber.com/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/>, they state, "As we continue to monitor the situation here locally, we will keep our members up-to-date via our social media channels and e-communications. If your business is expected to experience adverse conditions as a result of any announcement, please let us know directly. We will actively try to determine additional ways we can be supportive to our member businesses and organizations."

In addition to a myriad of helpful links for businesses, they are highlighting a free webinar to be held tomorrow, Monday, March 30, 2020, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. The webinar, titled *The Coronavirus – How Employers Can Manage the Outbreak*, is intended to help businesses better manage the risks and liabilities when addressing COVID-19.

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For more information, please contact:

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