



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2020

Fourth Case of COVID-19 Confirmed in Macon County

The Joint Crisis Communication Team is announcing that a fourth resident has tested positive for COVID-19. This patient is a male in his 50s. He has been self-quarantined and now will be isolated in his home. Upon notification of this positive case, the Macon County Health Department immediately began working to identify and actively monitor individuals who were in contact with this patient following Illinois Department of Public Health protocol and guidance. Contacts will be notified and provided with appropriate direction in an effort to reduce the risk of additional community spread and transmission.

Due to privacy restrictions as well as the safety and respect for the patient, we will not release further information regarding the case. Through interviews with the patient (which we call contact tracing), you would be notified if you were believed to be at risk by coming into contact with the patient.

We 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.

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:
Brandi Binkley

Public Health Administrator
Macon County Health Department
(217) 358-0683
bbinkley@maconchd.org