



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2020

COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update

As of today's release, the Joint Crisis Communication Team (CCT) reports the following numbers:

- Tests Performed in Macon County: 126
- Confirmed Cases in Macon County Residents: 17
- Pending Tests: 4
- Deaths of Macon County Residents with COVID-19: 1
- Age Ranges of Confirmed Cases:
 - One case in 20s
 - Five cases in 30s
 - One case in 40s
 - Four cases in 50s
 - Three cases in 60s
 - One case in 70s
 - Two cases in 80s

Upon notification of these positive cases, the Macon County Health Department (MCHD) immediately started contact tracing following Illinois Department of Public Health protocol and guidance. Contacts have been and are being notified and provided with appropriate direction. All confirmed cases are following isolation guidelines. Those considered to be contacts of the confirmed cases have been and are being notified and instructed to follow direction to prevent the spread of illness.

As a reminder, 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: Embracing a New Normal...For Now

As we begin to wake to more days filled with sunshine and continue to look forward to holidays and gatherings that we hold close to our hearts, there are a few things of which we must not lose sight. Our community has been bracing for the impact of COVID-19 for many weeks now. We have been urging everyone to be as proactive as possible and to hold themselves accountable by doing the right thing...even when it is difficult or not the choice we wish to make.

Some of you might be approaching one of the most important holidays of your faith. Some of you might be itching to get out and enjoy your favorite season of the year. Some of you may have years and years of memories of family gatherings, parties with friends, and traditions you have never let pass you by. These moments might be true tests to us...tests of our faith, of our willpower, of our ability to continue to practice selflessness in its greatest form. Please continue to practice social distancing through it all. Even if you want to be around your family and friends, please do not gather with anyone outside of your household in person. Instead, you may choose to use technology to your advantage by “gathering” in your separate homes, at your separate tables, at a set time to “eat together” and share a meal and memories via video chat or phone call. We must continue to do what is right, even when it is difficult, so that we keep flattening the curve and making our way toward the other side.

Thank You, Macon County.

The Joint CCT would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the community for coming together to donate masks and other protective equipment during the mask drives held over the last few weeks. Your kindness, generosity, and support during this unparalleled time is appreciated beyond measure.

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For more information, please contact:

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