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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2020

### COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update

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

- Confirmed Cases in Macon County Residents: 42
- Deaths of Macon County Residents with COVID-19: 1
- Age Ranges of Confirmed Cases:
  - One case in 20s
  - Five cases in 30s
  - Two cases in 40s
  - Five cases in 50s
  - Six cases in 60s
  - Six cases in 70s
  - Ten cases in 80s
  - Seven cases in 90s

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.

Of these 42 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 31 are associated with a local long-term care facility, Fair Havens Senior Living long-term care facility. The MCHD does not regularly identify the names of long-term care facilities with outbreaks of communicable diseases. However, in partnership with Fair Havens Senior Living, the MCHD is identifying this facility to assist with communications to the community and family members of residents. When cases are confirmed at any long-term care facility, IDPH guidance directs the long-term facility of steps to be taken with residents and the facility. IDPH guidance also directs the long-term care facility to communicate this information with the physician, local health department, regulatory agency, families, staff and residents. The MCHD has continued to be in ongoing communication with long-term care facilities.

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: Speak to Children About COVID-19**

Every day, we are being inundated with information about COVID-19. From television and radio to newspapers and social media, there seems to be an endless stream coming at us surrounding the subject. In times such as these, it can hard to decipher which messages are accurate and worth listening to and which should be dismissed. Now imagine being a child during a time like this, when the world has been seemingly flipped upside down and very little seems to be the same as it was earlier this year. Here are some tips you can use to help ensure your children are receiving honest, accurate information in doses appropriate for their age.

- Make sure to:
  - Remain calm and reassure them.
  - Let them know you are available to listen and talk to them.
    - Let them know they can come to you with questions.
  - Not make assumptions regarding whom might have COVID-19.
    - Anyone can have it.
  - Pay attention to what kids might hear or see on tv, the radio, or online.
    - Too much information on one topic can lead to increased anxiety.
  - Provide honest and truthful information for their age and developmental level.
    - Let them know that information they find on social media or the internet could be inaccurate.
  - Teach them and model the measures we, as adults, are taking so that they may take them, too.
    - Maintain social distancing from everyone who is not a part of your immediate household, and especially those who are coughing or sneezing.
    - Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the inner crease of the elbow, and then washing hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
    - Wash your hands after entering your house, blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, using the bathroom, and before and after preparing and eating food.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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