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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 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: 43
- Deaths of Macon County Residents with COVID-19: 5
- 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
  - Seven cases in 70s
  - Ten cases in 80s
  - Seven cases in 90s

We are saddened to announce the two additional people who have passed were females in their 80s, who were both residents of Fair Havens Senior Living long-term care facility. Our team would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends, and we ask that they are given respect and privacy as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Of these 43 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 32 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 unless it is a true emergency. Call your primary care physician first. Individuals without a primary care physician can call:

- DMH Medical Group at (217) 876-2856
- HSHS Medical Group Patient Advocate at 844-520-8897
- Crossing Healthcare at (217) 877-9117
- SIU at (217) 872-3800

For COVID-19 screening, the following resources are available:

- Memorial Health System's respiratory screening clinic located at DMH Express Care East (4455 U.S. Route 36 East); open seven days a week, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Before coming to the respiratory clinic, individuals should call (217) 876-1200.
- HSHS St. Mary's Hospital 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at (217) 464-2966
- HSHS Medical Group offers free virtual assessments for COVID-19 at [www.anytimecare.com](http://www.anytimecare.com)

Anyone entering healthcare facilities should be prepared to be screened before entering.

### **A Note From Memorial Health System**

Memorial Health System announced it has made its MemorialNow virtual-care service free to anyone in central Illinois. New users can download the free MemorialNow app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store or by visiting [MemorialNow.com](http://MemorialNow.com) and following written instructions.

The service is open to any patient regardless of insurance status or whether the patient already uses a Memorial Health System doctor, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

MemorialNow is accessible 24 hours a day, including holidays, and is staffed by Memorial nurse practitioners.

MemorialNow is a convenient and effective way to treat non-emergency illnesses such as a cold, flu-like symptoms, sore throat, fever and skin rashes. If a prescription is needed, free delivery is available from select pharmacies. Providers are able to send prescriptions to any local pharmacy.

### **Daily PSA: Social Distancing**

We have all been hearing and using the term "social distancing" a lot lately, but what exactly does it mean? The information following is intended to help everyone fully understand and, in turn, practice this measure to slow the contraction and spread of COVID-19.

Social distancing, or maybe we should call it "physical distancing," means keeping space between yourself and others that you do not share a household with. Whether this includes our co-workers, our friends or people we see at the grocery store, we want to make sure to practice social or physical distancing as often as possible.

Social or physical distancing:

- Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people.

- Do not gather in groups, whether that is a crowded aisle at the grocery store or out in the yard working on our gardening project. We want to be sure to stay at least 6 feet from others, including friends and neighbors.
- Make sure to stay out of crowded places and avoid places that people might be gathering, even though everyone should be staying home right now as often as possible.

We want to limit face-to-face contact with others because this is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In addition to everyday steps individuals should take to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as frequent handwashing and wearing a cloth face covering when you must go out into public, keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to this virus and to slow its spread locally and across the country and world. Everyone should limit close contact with individuals outside their own households both in indoor and outdoor spaces. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick or before they have symptoms, it is important to stay away from others when possible. Please do your part, no matter how difficult it may seem.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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