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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 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: 46
- Deaths of Macon County Residents with COVID-19: 6
- Age Ranges of Confirmed Cases:
  - Two case in 20s
  - Five cases in 30s
  - Two cases in 40s
  - Five cases in 50s
  - Seven cases in 60s
  - Seven cases in 70s
  - Eleven cases in 80s
  - Seven cases in 90s

Of these 46 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 33 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.

### **Daily PSA: A Message from the Illinois Poison Center**

The Illinois Poison Center (IPC) urges people to use caution with cleaning products, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to IPC data, exposures to cleaning products are up 30%, compared to last year, related to novel coronavirus transmission precautions and concerns. Examples of exposures the IPC is managing include:

- People using non-traditional chemicals to wash their hands (e.g. bleach, hydrogen peroxide, wipes, etc.) instead of regular hand soap resulting in rash/irritation and cracked skin.
- People using chemicals (e.g. bleach, wipes, cleaning powders) to wash their groceries, including produce and are then concerned about toxicity upon ingestion;
- Mixing cleaning chemicals together and inadvertently producing toxic gas; and
- Pediatric exposures to cleaning products left open/unattended.

"It is critical that consumers read all cleaning product labels carefully before use and heed any warnings," says IPC Assistant Vice President Carol Des Lauriers, Pharm.D. "While good hand hygiene and household disinfecting efforts are important in the fight against COVID-19, people must remember to use cleaning products for their intended use. If there is any doubt about the safe use of cleaning products, call the IPC for guidance." While many people are using the stay-at-home order to tackle spring cleaning, in conjunction with disinfecting to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the IPC offers the following tips for poison proofing your home:

Whenever using cleaning products, always read the product label first and use the product according to the label directions;

- Keep all cleaning products in their original containers with original labels;
- Store cleaning products out of sight, in locked cabinets;
- Keep all household cleaning products and other potentially harmful products separated from food products;
- Never leave a cleaning product open and unattended;

- When using cleaning products, work in well-ventilated areas; and
- Dispose of cleaning products according to the instructions on the label or at your community chemical waste drop-off site.

The good news is that approximately 90% of poison exposures can be treated safely and effectively at home, by calling the IPC at 800-222-1222 and providing the name of the poisonous substance and the approximate amount involved in the exposure.

In case of a poisoning exposure, follow these first-aid steps, then call the IPC:

- **Swallowed:** Give a few sips of water to drink. If the patient is unconscious, call 911 or take them to the nearest hospital emergency department. Never try to chemically neutralize any poison.
- **Skin:** Remove contaminated clothing and wash skin gently with soap and cool water.
- **Eyes:** Rinse eyes with lukewarm water for 15 minutes.
- **Fumes:** Remove patient to fresh air, taking care not to become exposed yourself. If the patient is not breathing, call 911 and start artificial respiration and continue until medical help arrives.

IPC experts are available to provide information and treatment advice 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, including holidays. If you suspect that you or someone you know has been exposed to a potentially harmful substance, please call the IPC at **800-222-1222**. The call is free and confidential. For more information, visit the IPC's website: <https://www.illinoispoisoncenter.org/>.

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**For more information, please contact:**

Marisa Hosier  
Director of Health Promotion and Public Relations  
Macon County Health Department  
[mhosier@maconchd.org](mailto:mhosier@maconchd.org)