



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2020

COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update

The Crisis Communication Team would like, at the time of this press release, to report that*:

- there are two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Macon County;
- forty-five tests have been completed in Macon County, with two positive test results, twenty-eight negative test results and fifteen test results pending; and
- sixteen Macon County residents have been tested outside of Macon County, with sixteen negative test results.

**Note: There is also a possibility that a provider has submitted and/or will submit a test to a private lab and the MCHD may not be notified, therefore unable to track that submission. If a private lab test is confirmed positive, the MCHD would be notified at that time.*

Upon notification of these positive cases, the MCHD immediately started contact tracing following Illinois Department of Public Health protocol and guidance. Contacts have been notified and provided with appropriate direction. We now 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.

Daily PSA: Lunch in the Park for Kids Today

Today, April 2, 2020, children through age 18 can pick up one sack lunch at Lions, Grant, Hess, and Oak Grove Parks from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Social distancing practices will be enforced, and no congregating to eat the lunches will be allowed.

A Message from the Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce Regarding Corporate Census Day

Join us for Corporate Census Day on Friday, April 3, 2020. We encourage you to have employees take 10-15 minutes out of their workday to complete the census. The census form contains only nine questions and can be filled out online or over the phone - it is a quick and easy way to make a major impact for all of us in Illinois!

A complete and accurate U.S. 2020 Census count is critical for our state and local communities to receive billions of dollars in federal funding for programs and infrastructure you value most. From healthcare centers to nutrition assistance, school funding, libraries, roads, EMS services, and more—our communities benefit when every person is counted. As we face the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for human health services and educational programs has become even clearer. For each person not counted, our community stands to lose \$1,400 a year in funding for programs that support our state and local communities. That's why it's critical to #CareAbouttheCount.

Simple steps:

- Employees should refer to their census letter received by mail for their unique code. If they do not have the letter, they can still complete the census.
- Go to 2020Census.gov and click "Respond".
- You can complete the census for everyone in your family. Everyone counts including newborn babies born on or before April 1, 2020.
- The census form contains nine questions and only takes about 10-15 minutes to complete.

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For more information, please contact:

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