



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2020

COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update

The Joint Crisis Communication Team (CCT) is announcing, in addition to the six previously-confirmed COVID-19 cases, that two more Macon County residents have tested positive for COVID-19. The first patient is a male in his 60s who is in isolation in his home. The second patient is a male in his 80s who is in isolation at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

At the time of this press release, the CCT is reporting that*:

- there are eight confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Macon County;
- sixty-nine tests have been completed in Macon County, with six positive test results, fifty-seven negative test results and six test results pending; and
- twenty-five Macon County residents have been tested outside of Macon County, with two positive test results and twenty-three 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/will be 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: Low Risk Isn't No Risk

Low risk is not equal to no risk. Even if you are less than sixty years old and you do not have an underlying health condition, you can still become sick with COVID-19. You can still risk transmitting the virus to those you love who might be vulnerable to becoming seriously ill simply because you are a carrier with no symptoms.

The aforementioned information is why social distancing is of utmost importance. This is why we are asking you to be thoughtful in your essential trips out – take only what you need so that there is enough for everyone, but ensure it is enough to last for several days; if possible, shop for those who are at increased risk and drop the groceries to their homes without coming into contact with them; wear a face cover if you are able. Wash your hands frequently throughout the day, and especially when you return home from being out in public. Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects such as light switches, doorknobs, cell phones, etc. Ensure you are getting adequate sleep – most healthy adults require between seven and nine hours of sleep per night to function at their best. Eat a colorful diet with plenty of fruits and vegetables and drink plenty of water throughout the day. As we have mentioned often before, we all have our part to play, and we must take care of and hold ourselves and each other accountable in order to stay as safe and healthy as possible.

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