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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2020

### COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update

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

- Tests Performed in Macon County: 110
- Confirmed Cases in Macon County Residents: 13
- Pending Tests: 8
- COVID-19 Deaths of Macon County Residents: 1

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.

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: We Are All on the Frontline

There cannot be enough thanks extended to the amazing essential employees in our community who are showing up each and every day to ensure that essential businesses are still operational even in the midst of a global pandemic – hospital and healthcare workers, law enforcement officers, grocery

store employees, government officials and so many more. These individuals are showing up for us, in spite of risk, to keep our community functioning as best as possible during this time.

And so, while our essential employees continue to show up for us, we must stay home for them as often as we possibly can. As a community, as a nation, and as an entire planet, we must all take ownership of this and act as though we, too, are on the frontline...because we are. We all have the power to turn our everyday actions into a first line of defense against the contraction and further spread of this virus. Stay home and maintain distance from everyone who is not a member of your immediate household. Follow the precautionary measures – thorough and frequent hand washing; using a mask to cover your faces in public and congregate settings; self-monitoring your own health condition – at every opportunity. Use technology and social media for the good and to your advantage – circulate credible information, stay in touch with friends and loved ones, and find creative activities and new meals for your household to try. We must make sacrifices, however difficult they may be, in the short-term for the benefit of the long-term. Take care of yourselves and each other.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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