



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2020

Joint Crisis Communication Team Press Update

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

COVID-19 Macon County, Illinois

Updated 5/2/2020

Confirmed Cases

121

Released from Isolation

22

Home Isolation

76

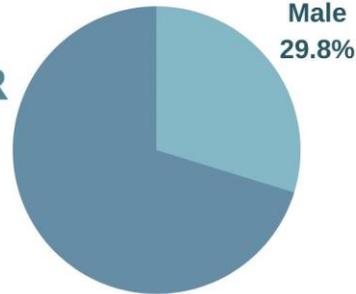
Hospitalized

11

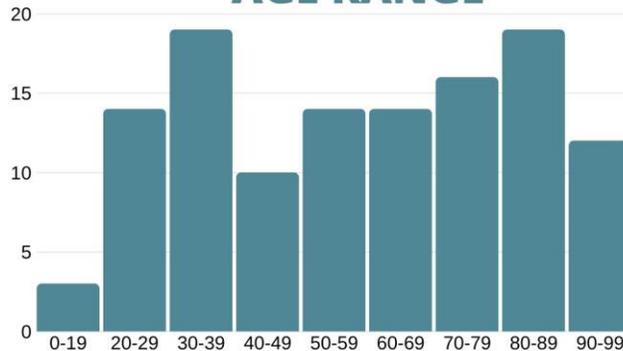
Deaths

12

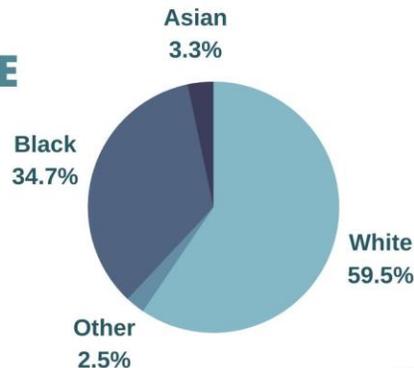
GENDER



AGE RANGE



RACE



All numbers reflect status at time of release. Demographic information reflects confirmed cases only. Deaths are included in the number of confirmed cases. All numbers displayed are provisional and are subject to change.



Since yesterday's press release, we have had 8 newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19. Two of these cases are associated with long-term care facilities. Therefore, our overall number is 121 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Macon County.

All community members, whether feeling ill or well, must 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. Follow the precautionary measures – thorough and frequent hand washing; using a mask to cover your face in public and congregate settings; self-monitoring your own health condition – at every opportunity.

People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms leading to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to update the list of symptoms. Symptoms may appear two to fourteen days after exposure to the virus. People with the following symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19: cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Additionally, those with **at least two** of the following symptoms may have COVID-19: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell. This list is not all inclusive. If you experience symptoms with which you are concerned, 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.
- Crossing Healthcare, 320 East Central Avenue in Decatur. Call (217) 877-9117 for an appointment.
- 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.

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

PSA: When and How to Use Hand Sanitizer in Community Settings

As we continue to promote many proactive measures to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 in our community, we would like to take a moment to provide more in-depth information about hand hygiene and the use of hand sanitizers. Please take a moment to read the informational messaging below from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC recommends washing hands with soap and water whenever possible because handwashing reduces the amounts of all types of germs and chemicals on hands. But if soap and water are not available, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can help you avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. The guidance for effective handwashing and use of hand sanitizer in community settings was developed based on data from a number of studies.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of microbes on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do not eliminate all types of germs.

Why? Soap and water are more effective than hand sanitizers at removing certain kinds of germs, like *Cryptosporidium*, norovirus, and *Clostridium difficile*. Although alcohol-based hand sanitizers can inactivate many types of microbes very effectively when used correctly, people may not use a large enough volume of the sanitizers or may wipe it off before it has dried.

Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.

Why? Many studies show that hand sanitizers work well in clinical settings like hospitals, where hands come into contact with germs but generally are not heavily soiled or greasy. Some data also show that hand sanitizers may work well against certain types of germs on slightly soiled hands. However, hands may become very greasy or soiled in community settings, such as after people handle food, play sports, work in the garden, or go camping or fishing. When hands are heavily soiled or greasy, hand sanitizers may not work well. Handwashing with soap and water is recommended in such circumstances.

Hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals, like pesticides and heavy metals, from hands.

Why? Although few studies have been conducted, hand sanitizers probably cannot remove or inactivate many types of harmful chemicals. In one study, people who reported using hand sanitizer to clean hands had increased levels of pesticides in their bodies. If hands have touched harmful chemicals, wash carefully with soap and water (or as directed by a poison control center).

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Why? Many studies have found that sanitizers with an alcohol concentration between 60–95% are more effective at killing germs than those with a lower alcohol concentration or non-alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Hand sanitizers without 60-95% alcohol 1) may not work equally well for many types of germs; and 2) merely reduce the growth of germs rather than kill them outright.

When using hand sanitizer, apply the product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount) and rub the product all over the surfaces of your hands until your hands are dry.

Why? The steps for hand sanitizer use are based on a simplified procedure recommended by CDC. Instructing people to cover all surfaces of both hands with hand sanitizer has been found to provide similar disinfection effectiveness as providing detailed steps for rubbing-in hand sanitizer.

Hand sanitizer can, in fact, be an effective tool to use in a pinch when hand washing is not readily available. While this is true, we want to ensure that everyone understands the importance of proper hand washing as the *most effective* way to eliminate germs on the hands as well as the most effective times and uses of hand sanitizers.

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For more information, please contact:

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