FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2020

<u>**Crisis Communication Team Press Update**</u>

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

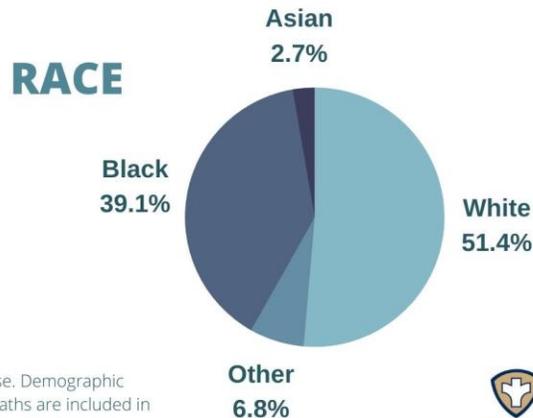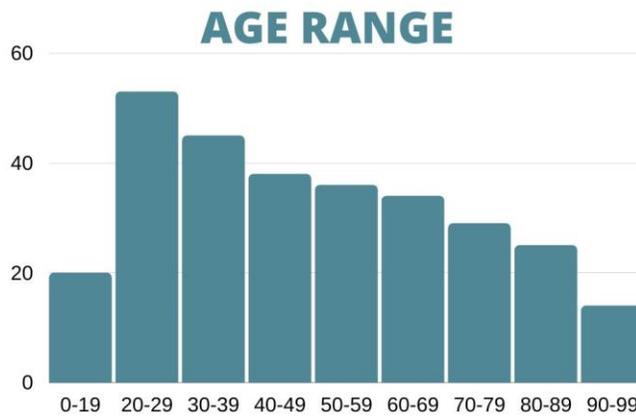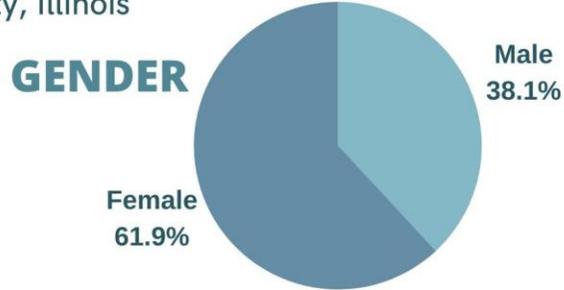**COVID-19 Macon County, Illinois**
Updated 7/22/2020

Confirmed Cases	**294**
Released from Isolation	**220**
Home Isolation	**44**
Hospitalized	**7**
Deaths	**23**

GENDER
Male 38.1%
Female 61.9%

AGE RANGE
0-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99

RACE
Asian 2.7%
Black 39.1%
White 51.4%
Other 6.8%

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 the previous release, we have had eight newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19. Therefore, our overall number is 294 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Macon County.

We encourage all community members to implement social distancing and face covering best practices to limit the spread of COVID-19. <u>People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms</u>. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 with which you are concerned, please call your primary care physician first. Do not show up at a hospital emergency room or doctor's office unless it is a true emergency.

Individuals without a primary care physician can call:

- DMH Medical Group: (217) 876-2856
- HSHS Medical Group Patient Advocate: 844-520-8897
- Crossing Healthcare: (217) 877-9117
- SIU: (217) 872-3800

For COVID-19 screening, please call one of the following:

- Crossing Healthcare: (217) 877-9117
- HSHS St. Mary's Hospital 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline: (217) 464-2966
- HSHS Medical Group offers free virtual assessments for COVID-19 at www.anytimecare.com.

<u>Anyone entering healthcare facilities should be prepared to be screened before entering.</u>

PSA: Contact Tracing

The following information was provided by the CDC. You can view their website at www.cdc.gov.

Contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and people who they came in contact with (contacts) and working with them to interrupt disease spread. This includes asking people with COVID-19 to isolate and their contacts to quarantine at home.

What a person diagnosed with COVID-19 can expect to happen during contact tracing:

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, a public health worker may call you to check-in on your health, discuss who you've been in contact with, and ask where you spent time while you may have been infectious and able to spread COVID-19 to others. You will also be asked to stay at home and self-isolate, if you are not doing so already.

- Your name will not be revealed to those you may have exposed, even if they ask.
- Self-isolation means staying at home in a specific room away from other people and pets and using a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Self-isolation helps slow the spread of COVID-19 and can help keep your family, friends, neighbors, and others you may come in contact with healthy.
- If you need support or assistance while self-isolating, your health department or community organizations may be able to provide assistance.

- Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. If your symptoms worsen or become severe, you should seek medical care. Severe symptoms include trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.

What a close contact can expect to happen during contact tracing:

If you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, a public health worker might contact you to inform you that you've been exposed to COVID-19.

You should stay at home and self-quarantine for 14 days, starting from the last day you were possibly exposed to COVID-19. The public health worker will help identify the dates of your self-quarantine. They can also provide resources about COVID-19 testing in your area.

- Self-quarantine means staying home, monitoring your health, and maintaining social distancing (at least 6 feet) from others at all times.
- If you need to be around other people or animals in or outside of the home, wear a face covering This will help protect the people around you.
- If you need support or assistance with self-quarantine, your health department or community organizations may be able to provide assistance.

You should take your temperature twice a day, watch for symptoms of COVID-19, and notify your health department if you have symptoms. You should also notify people you had close contact with recently if you become ill, so they can monitor their health. If your symptoms worsen or become severe, you should seek medical care. Severe symptoms include trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.

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For more information, please contact:
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