FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2020

**Crisis Communication Team Press Update**

Macon County is still following the Phase 4 guidelines included in the Restore Illinois Plan. The ruling in Clay County only applies to the 4th Circuit. Therefore, that ruling does not apply in Macon County and all guidance is still expected to be followed. As a reminder, this guidance has been issued to promote the health, well-being, and safety of all community members. By following the guidance, businesses and residents are making a commitment and taking a preventive action to limit the spread of illness. All residents should follow public health recommendations including, but limited to: social distancing, wearing a mask in public, especially when social distancing is not possible; washing hands frequently and adequately; and staying home if they are sick. For more information about the Restore Illinois Guidance, please visit [https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4](https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4)

As of today’s release, the Joint Crisis Communication Team (CCT) reports the following numbers:
The Joint Crisis Communication Team is saddened to announce the passing of a Macon County resident with COVID-19. We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Thus far, 8,817 tests have been performed in Macon County. Since the previous release, we have had four newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19. Therefore, our overall number is 236 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. People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms. 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
For COVID-19 screening, please call one of the following:

- Crossing Healthcare: (217) 877-9117
- SIU: (217) 872-3800
- HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline: (217) 464-2966

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

**PSA: Protect Your Kids**

Children are at high risk for injuries that can lead to death or disability, including burns, drowning falls, poisoning, and road traffic. Use these tips to ensure your kids are safe.

- Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to help prevent burns from scalding water.
- Don’t leave food unattended on the stove or other hot surfaces.
- When your kids participate in outdoor activities, make sure they put on appropriate protective gear such as wrist guards, knee and elbow pads, helmets, and life jackets.
- Supervise kids around cooking surfaces, bodies of water, stairs, and playground equipment.
- Use seat belts, child safety seats, and booster seats as appropriate for a child’s age and size when riding in a motor vehicle.
- Make sure children ages 13 and under ride in the back seat. Avoid placing children in front of airbags.
- Put medicines, cleaning solutions, and other dangerous products in locked or child-proof cabinets.
- Place the poison control phone number (1-800-222-1222) on all landline and cell phones.
- Read directions and warnings on labels before giving medicines to children.
- Create a smoke-free environment for your child.

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**For more information, please contact:**
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