

Macon County Bars and Restaurants,

Thank you so much for everything you have done and continue to do to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Macon County and beyond. We realize that the burden on your establishments and staff has been significant and we empathize with what you are experiencing.

Due to the numbers seen throughout Region 6, our community was included in the mitigation measures recently implemented. Many establishments are compliant and we are aware that some have chosen to violate the restrictions in place. We thank those of you whom have continued to be compliant and we strongly encourage all non-compliant establishments to follow the mitigation measures immediately.

I am sure you have been monitoring the situation regarding number of cases, contacts, hospitalizations, and deaths not only here in our County, but also throughout our Nation. As predicted, we are in a surge of COVID-19 and with holidays, winter, and flu here and increasing, the situation is expected to get worse. Businesses are choosing to be non-compliant and people are gathering, both of which present increased risk. This is not just about the risk posed if someone gets COVID-19, but also the risk of overburdening our healthcare system and long-term health implications experienced by those with COVID-19.

If you need more information regarding these recommendations and supporting data, our statistics can be found at the following locations:

- 1) Our daily releases: [www.maconcountyhealth.org](http://www.maconcountyhealth.org) and our Facebook page (Macon County Health Department – Decatur, IL)
- 2) County-specific metrics reflecting a positivity rate that is over double the target PLUS information regarding hospital availability: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=6>
- 3) Mitigation Measures: <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/COVID-19-Resurgence-Migitations.pdf>

We appreciate your efforts and compliance and plead with you to remain compliant or achieve compliance if you are not at this point. We need everyone in our community to make the safest, life-saving choices to protect those who live, work, and play in our community.

Sincerely,

Brandi Binkley