



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 8, 2020**

**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 12/8/2020

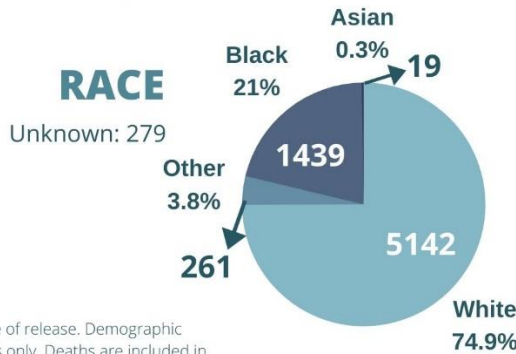
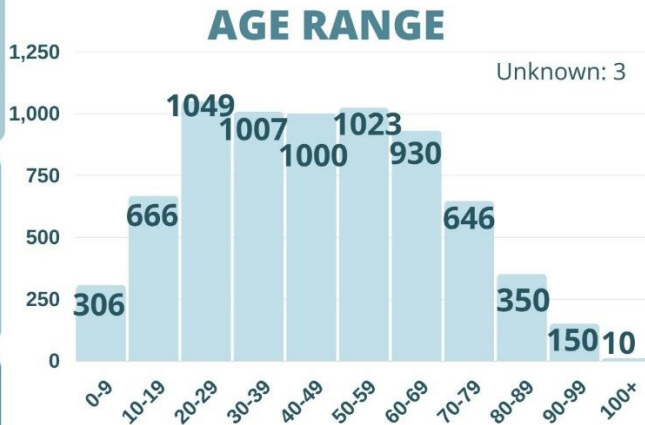
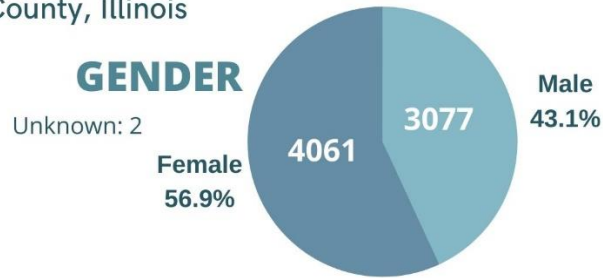
Confirmed Cases  
**7140**

Released from Isolation  
**3941**

Home Isolation  
**3028**

Hospitalized  
**27**

Deaths  
**144**



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.



The Joint Crisis Communication Team is incredibly saddened to announce the passing of a Macon County resident with COVID-19. This person was a male in his 90s. We ask that you please respect the privacy of his family and friends as they mourn their incredible loss.

Today, the Joint CCT is reporting 59 newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19. Therefore, since the start of the pandemic, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Macon County residents is 7,140. Please acknowledge that every person affected by this pandemic is a human being with family, friends, and a future that is changed by COVID-19. It is up to every single member of this community to do EVERYTHING that they can do prevent the spread of this virus and the consequences associated.

CDC and IDPH have recently put out updated guidance regarding quarantine time periods and possible adjustments that *can* be made, if approved by the local health department. The CDC *still* recommends a quarantine period of 14 days, despite the allowance of these shortened quarantined timeframes. If the shortened time periods strategy is implemented, the residual post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be 1-12%. This can be a significant amount of infectious people out of quarantine early and subsequently spreading the virus. According to IDPH, “Due to the risk of severe illness and congregate transmission, IDPH does not recommend application of the two shortened quarantine options in congregate settings” (i.e. long-term care facilities, homeless shelters, and schools). The Macon County Health Department has elected to still implement and advise the 14 day quarantine time period to ensure utmost prevention of spread of illness. In Macon County, we have had 143 residents with COVID-19 pass away. Our mortality rate is significant and concerning, placing our county as one of the highest in the state. Our positivity rate is still over the target and we expect surges following gatherings held throughout the holiday season. Our team will continue to monitor the situation to determine if these shortened time periods can eventually be adopted. However, this will not be evaluated until at least late January. This decision was made with aim to protect as many residents as possible and we strongly encourage community residents to follow quarantine and isolation guidance as directed by our team.

Community members can refer to the Illinois Department of Public Health’s website to view the total number of COVID-19 tests performed. You can find this information at the following link - <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid19-statistics> - by selecting Macon County in the dropdown box.

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.

#### COVID-19 Testing:

- Drive-Through COVID-19 Testing in the Decatur Civic Center Parking Lot **through December 20, 2020**
  - 7 days a week, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- Crossing Healthcare: Drive-through testing located at 990 N. Water St.
  - Monday- Friday, 8:00 a.m.- noon (appointments are strongly encouraged, but not required)
  - For more information and to schedule an appointment, visit [crossinghealthcare.org/COVID19](https://crossinghealthcare.org/COVID19)
- SIU: Patients should call (217) 872-3800.

- HSHS Medical Group: Drive-through testing by appointment only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4965 Lost Bridge Rd., Decatur, IL
  - Registration through MyChart is required for testing.
    - Non-HSHS Patients can visit: [HSHSMGCovidTesting.org](https://www.hshsmg.org/covid-testing) to set up an account
    - HSHS Patients can visit: [HSHSMGCovidTesting.org](https://www.hshsmg.org/covid-testing) or their MyChart account
- CVS: Visit [www.cvs.com](https://www.cvs.com)
- Vero Clinics: [www.veroclinics.com](https://www.veroclinics.com)

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**For more information, please contact:**

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