



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2020

COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update

The Crisis Communication Team would like to report that, at the time of this press release, there are*:

- two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Macon County;
- twenty-nine tests have been completed in Macon County, with two positive test results, fourteen negative test results and thirteen test results pending; and
- nine Macon County residents have been tested outside of Macon County, with nine negative test results.

**Note: There is also a possibility that a provider has submitted and/or will submit a test to a private lab and the MCHD may not be notified, therefore unable to track that submission. If a private lab test is confirmed positive, the MCHD would be notified at that time.*

Upon notification of these positive cases, the MCHD immediately started contact tracing following Illinois Department of Public Health protocol and guidance. Contacts have been notified and provided with appropriate direction. We now know that COVID-19 is in our community. Because testing is not widely available to the general public, it is **imperative** that community members, whether feeling ill or well, 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.

If you experience symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath, do not present at a hospital emergency room or doctor's office immediately unless it is a true emergency. Please first call your primary care physician. If you do not have a primary care physician in place at this time, you may call DMH Medical Group at (217) 876-2856, Crossing Healthcare at (217) 877-9117 or SIU at (217) 872-3800. HSHS Medical Group Family Medicine Forsyth is operating a regional respiratory hub. Their hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call your primary care provider if you have any questions. Memorial Health System is operating a respiratory screening clinic at its DMH Express Care East location to screen people for the COVID-19 virus. The clinic at 4455 U.S. Route 36 East will operate seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. People coming to the respiratory clinic should call (217) 876-1200 before they arrive. Patients and visitors to healthcare facilities should be prepared to be screened before entering.

Daily PSA: What Can YOU Do to Help?

Did you know that there are people in our community who are not up-to-date with the latest information surrounding COVID-19 in our community? Some people are not aware that COVID-19 exists and what it is. This could be anyone and includes our neighbors, our family, or our friends. There is a way that you can help bridge that gap. Check in with the people you love, know, and care about often. Use technology, be it a landline phone, cell phone, or computer, to reach out to and update them each day with **factual** information from **credible** resources such as the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Macon County Health Department (MCHD). As Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, stated in a press conference, "We all have our part to play." Make sure you are playing your part by protecting those who might be vulnerable to this illness; those who might be vulnerable because of a lack of information; and those who may be unknowingly spreading the virus.

Do Not Forget!

The Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce has developed a resource page devoted to helping members navigate the situation surrounding COVID-19 in relation to their businesses. In a message on their website, <https://www.decaturchamber.com/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/>, they state, "As we continue to monitor the situation here locally, we will keep our members up-to-date via our social media channels and e-communications. If your business is expected to experience adverse conditions as a result of any announcement, please let us know directly. We will actively try to determine additional ways we can be supportive to our member businesses and organizations."

In addition to a myriad of helpful links for businesses, they are highlighting a free webinar to be held today, Monday, March 30, 2020, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. The webinar, titled *The Coronavirus – How Employers Can Manage the Outbreak*, is intended to help businesses better manage the risks and liabilities when addressing COVID-19.

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For more information, please contact:

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