



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2020

Joint 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 4/24/2020

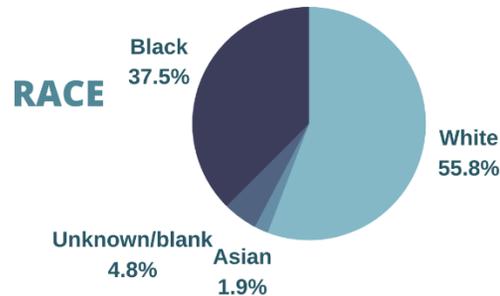
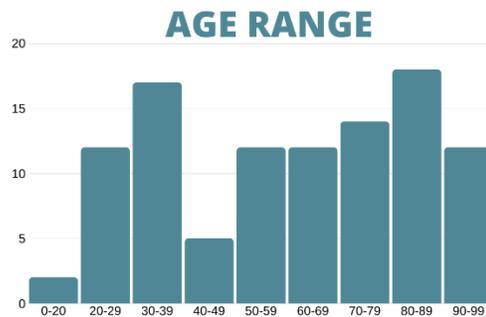
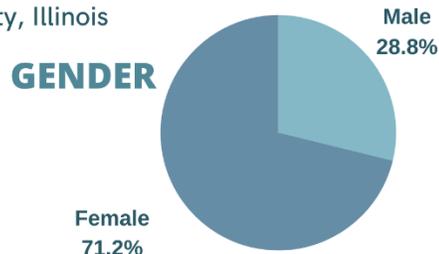
Confirmed Cases
104

Released from Isolation
14

Home Isolation
74

Hospitalized
5

Deaths
11



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 yesterday's press release, we had 9 newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19, but through diligent contact tracing, it was determined one case was from another county. Therefore, our overall number has increased by 8 to total 104 confirmed COVID-19 cases. To date, there have been 630 total tests performed. Of the 104 total confirmed cases of COVID-19, 75 are associated with congregate living facilities ("associated with" means staff and residents of facility(ies)).

The bulk of positive cases in our community have been related to a congregate living facility. However, the public should not have a false sense of security that only congregate living facilities are at risk. There are symptomatic and asymptomatic people in our community that have COVID-19 and could potentially be spreading it to others. That is one reason why it is so incredibly important that preventive measures continue to be taken by all. Any contact with others is an increased risk of exposure and should be limited whenever possible.

All community members, whether feeling ill or well, must 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. Follow the precautionary measures – thorough and frequent hand washing; using a mask to cover your face in public and congregate settings; self-monitoring your own health condition – at every opportunity.

If you experience symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath, do not present at a hospital emergency room or doctor's office unless it is a true emergency. Call your primary care physician first. Individuals without a primary care physician can call:

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

For COVID-19 screening, the following resources are available:

- Memorial Health System's respiratory screening clinic located at DMH Express Care East (4455 U.S. Route 36 East); open seven days a week, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Before coming to the respiratory clinic, individuals should call (217) 876-1200.
- Crossing Healthcare, 320 East Central Avenue in Decatur. Call (217) 877-9117 for an appointment.
- HSHS St. Mary's Hospital 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at (217) 464-2966
- HSHS Medical Group offers free virtual assessments for COVID-19 at www.anytimecare.com.

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

Daily PSA: Executive Order Update

Governor Pritzker announced on April 23rd an extension on the current executive order that will last until May 30th. Along with that, there will be a few changes implemented on May 1st:

- Anyone over the age of 2, and medically able, will be required to wear a face-covering in any indoor public place where you are unable to maintain social distancing of 6 feet from others.
- Newly added essential businesses include: greenhouses, garden centers, and nurseries. Social distancing and face-coverings are mandatory.

- Retail stores not originally listed as essential may now take orders online or by phone and allow curbside pick-up and/or delivery.
- State parks will begin re-opening in phases. Fishing and boating will be permitted in groups of no more than 2 people. Social distancing is mandatory.
 - Please visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to see the list of parks.
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/closures/Pages/ParksOpenDuringCoVID19.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1R0XfoULYd0kRyHRw5wZloJqvNeBXuWCtIzedT6e7Q2LOpos8MI-LtXLo>
- Schools and educational opportunities may allow and establish procedures for pick-up of necessary supplies or student belongings.
 - Dormitory move-outs must follow public health guidelines of face-coverings and social distancing.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health will also be issuing guidance to surgi-centers and hospitals to allow for certain elective surgeries for non-life-threatening conditions. Facilities will need to meet specific criteria, including proper PPE, ensuring enough overall space for COVID-19 patients remains available, and testing of elective surgery patients to ensure COVID-19 negative status.
- Current essential businesses: new requirements on social distancing with a cap on occupancy.

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