



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2020

COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update

The Joint Crisis Communication Team (CCT) is announcing, in addition to the eight previously-confirmed COVID-19 cases, that two more Macon County residents have tested positive for COVID-19. The first patient is a female in her 30s who is in isolation in her home. The second patient is a female in her 50s who is in isolation at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

At the time of this press release, the CCT is reporting that*:

- there are ten confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Macon County;
- seventy-four tests have been completed in Macon County, with eight positive test results, fifty-eight negative test results and eight test results pending; and
- twenty-five Macon County residents have been tested outside of Macon County, with two positive test results and twenty-three 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/will be 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.

Please Do Not Litter

With the increased use of gloves and masks to protect against the spread and contraction of COVID-19, there has been an increased amount of litter in the community. Please do not discard used gloves and masks on the ground. Safely dispose of them in a trash receptacle. We want to protect our environment as well as our own health!

Daily PSA: Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Homes

Household members and caregivers in a non-healthcare setting may have close contact with a person who is symptomatic, who has laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, or a Person Under Investigation (PUI). Close contacts should monitor their own health and call their healthcare provider right away if they develop symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath). Close contacts should also follow the recommendations below and visit www.cdc.gov for more information.

- Make sure you understand and can help the patient follow their healthcare provider's instructions for medications and care. You should help the patient with basic needs in the house and provide support for getting groceries, prescriptions, and other personal needs.
- Help monitor the patient's symptoms. If the patient is getting sicker, call his/her/their healthcare provider and make sure to tell them if the patient has laboratory-confirmed COVID-19.
- Household members should stay in another room and/or be separated from the patient as much as possible. Household members should use a separate bedroom and bathroom, if available.
- Prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home.
- Perform hand hygiene frequently. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains **at least** 60% alcohol.
- Avoid sharing household items with the patients. You should not share dishes, drinking glasses or cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding or other items.
- Clean all high-touch surfaces such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables every day.

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For more information, please contact:

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