



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

COVID-19 Joint Press Communication Update

As of today's release, the Joint Crisis Communication Team (CCT) reports the following numbers:

- Tests Performed in Macon County: 92
- Confirmed Cases in Macon County Residents: 12
- Pending Tests: 6

Upon notification of these positive cases, the Macon County Health Department (MCHD) immediately started contact tracing following Illinois Department of Public Health protocol and guidance. Contacts have been and are being notified and provided with appropriate direction. All confirmed cases are following isolation guidelines.

Of these 12 confirmed cases, four (4) have been associated with a long-term care facility. Per IDPH guidance, the MCHD will not release to the public the name of a facility with an outbreak in consideration of the privacy and safety of people with confirmed cases. However, those considered to be contacts of the confirmed cases have been and are being notified and instructed to follow direction to prevent the spread of illness.

Upon notification of these cases, IDPH guidance directs the long-term facility of steps to be taken with residents and the facility. IDPH guidance also directs the long-term facility to communicate this information with the physician, local health department, regulatory agency, families, staff and residents. The MCHD has been in ongoing communication with the long-term care facility prior to and since the notification of confirmed cases.

As a reminder, 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 if Home is the Most Dangerous Place of All?

The stay-at-home order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 can have dangerous consequences for individuals experiencing domestic violence. If you need help, you can call the local Dove Inc. hotline that operates 24 hours per day at (217) 423-2238. You may also call the Illinois Department of Human Services Domestic Violence Helpline at 1-877-TO END DV (1-877-863-6338 voice or 1-877-863-6339 TTY) and get connected to local domestic violence shelters or emergency shelter at available hotels and motels. Transportation assistance may also be available.

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For more information, please contact:

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