



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 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: 117
- Confirmed Cases in Macon County Residents: 14
- Pending Tests: 4
- Deaths of Macon County Residents with COVID-19: 1
- Age Ranges of Confirmed Cases:
 - One case in 20s
 - Three cases in 30s
 - One case in 40s
 - Four cases in 50s
 - Two cases in 60s
 - One case in 70s
 - Two cases in 80s

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. 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.

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: Information about Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for Independent Contractors and Self-Proprietors

Are you an independent contract or self-employed worker not typically eligible for unemployment benefits? The new federal government stimulus does include Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for independent contractors and self-proprietors who have lost their jobs as a direct result of COVID-19. As of April 7, however, the details of that federally funded unemployment benefit (up to 39 weeks) have not been implemented. The Illinois Department of Employment Security asks you not to call to inquire about these benefits, but to keep checking their website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/default.aspx>

Further details about the program, how to apply, and eligibility requirements will be posted as soon as they have been finalized.

Do Not Forget

The Macon County Joint CCT is accepting donations at the Decatur Civic Center from **1:00 p.m. to 3:00p.m. today, Thursday, April 9th.** N-95 masks, clean homemade sewn masks, or any other respiratory protection will be accepted. Boxed gowns, gloves, sanitizer, bleach and alcohol wipes will also be accepted.

Funding Opportunities for Small Businesses

Our nation's small businesses are facing an unprecedented economic disruption due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. On Friday, March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the CARES Act, which contains \$376 billion in relief for American workers and small businesses. Please click the following link to explore the potential funding options available. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

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For more information, please contact:

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