



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2020

### 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 6/1/2020

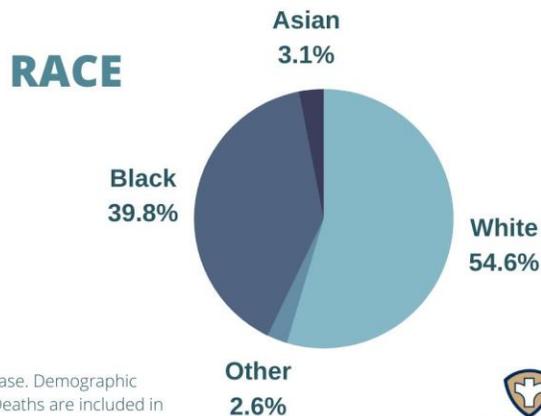
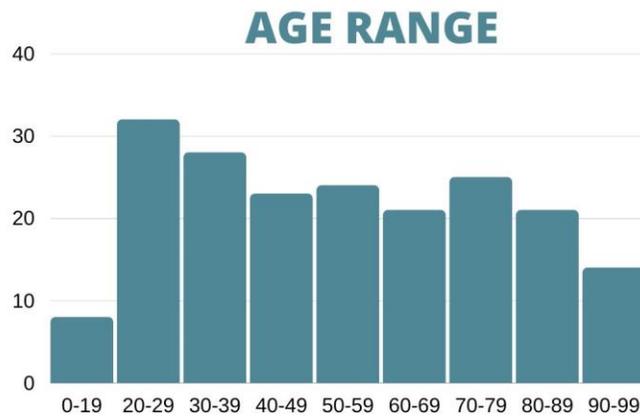
Confirmed Cases  
**196**

Released from Isolation  
**99**

Home Isolation  
**75**

Hospitalized  
**3**

Deaths  
**19**



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.



Thus far, 3,690 tests have been performed in Macon County. Since yesterday's release, we have had one newly-confirmed case of COVID-19. Therefore, our overall number is still 196 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Macon County.

We encourage all community members to implement social distancing and face covering best practices to limit the spread of COVID-19. People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 with which you are concerned, please call your primary care physician first. Do not show up at a hospital emergency room or doctor's office unless it is a true emergency.

Individuals without a primary care physician can call:

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

For COVID-19 screening, please call one of the following:

- Crossing Healthcare: (217) 877-9117
- HSHS St. Mary's Hospital 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline: (217) 464-2966
- HSHS Medical Group offers free virtual assessments for COVID-19 at [www.anytimecare.com](http://www.anytimecare.com).

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

### **PSA: Preventing Deaths in Hot Cars**

Many of us have experienced change in our routines, added distractions and stress. While we think we would never leave our children behind, it can happen. When caregivers go into autopilot mode, which is to do something without thinking about or focusing on what is happening, tragic things can happen.

10 minutes. That's how long it takes for the temperature inside a vehicle to rise 19 degrees. Research has shown that leaving the window cracked does not help. When the temperature outside is 75 degrees, within 10 minutes the temperature inside the vehicle can rise to 94 degrees.

Three primary circumstances resulting in deaths of children in hot cars are:

- A caregiver forgetting a child in the vehicle.
- The child gaining access to the vehicle.
- Someone knowingly leaving a child in the vehicle.

Change in route, autopilot mode, distraction, stress, and becoming a new parent can all be a reason as to why tragic things can happen.

Ways to prevent autopilot mode are:

- Set an audible GPS to go to your child care destination, even if you've been their 100 times.

- While the main priority is to focus on the road while driving, consider talking to child even if your child is an infant.
- Set an alarm on your cell phone with the description as your child's name. Choose a different sound or tone than all of your other alarms.
- Do not answer the phone while driving, even if you have a hands-free device. This can be an added distraction.
- Frequently say out loud where you are going.

With children being the most vulnerable to heatstroke, we must take extra steps to keep children safe.

Look before you lock your car.

- Make it a routine open the back door to your car every time you park.
- If you are driving a child, after you correctly buckle them in a car seat or booster seat—put something you need at your destination in the back seat so you will open the back door: a cellphone, employee badge, handbag, or other item you need to keep with you.
- Ask your babysitter or child care provider to call you if your child hasn't arrived as scheduled.
- Keep a stuffed animal in the child's car seat. Place it on the front passenger seat as a reminder when the child is in the back seat.
- Set the alarm on your cell phone or computer calendar as a reminder to drop your child off at child care. Remember to make the alarm song/sound different from all other alert sounds on your device.
- If you have a change in routine, such as your spouse or parent dropping your child off at child care instead of you, make sure you and the other person communicate to confirm the drop-off was made.
- Consider technology that alerts drivers to check the back seat. Vehicle and child restraint manufacturers have been working on various evolving alert systems and some technologies are available now.

Remind your children, the car is not a place to play. If they want a toy out of the car, they must ask an adult to help. If your child is taking a nap, do not leave them in the car even if the car is in the shade. Even on mild or cloudy days, temperatures inside vehicles can reach life-threatening levels. Leaving windows slightly open doesn't help. Children should never be left unattended or be able to get inside a vehicle. If you see something, please say something. You may save a child's life.

###

**For more information, please contact:**

Emily O'Connell

Health Educator

Macon County Health Department

[eoconnell@maconchd.org](mailto:eoconnell@maconchd.org)