FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 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 6/9/2020

Confirmed Cases
203

Released from Isolation
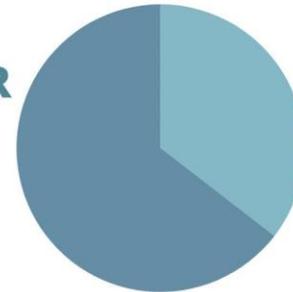**131**

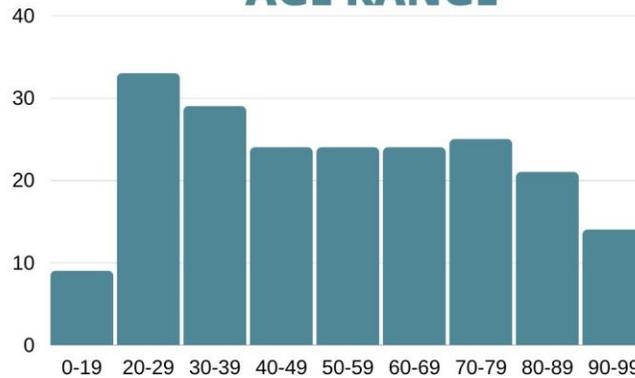Home Isolation
50

Hospitalized
0

Deaths
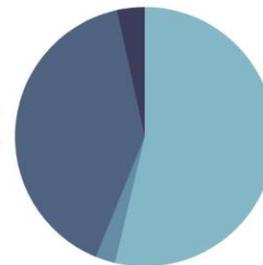**22**

GENDER
Male 35.5%
Female 64.5%

AGE RANGE

RACE
Asian 3.4%
Black 40.4%
White 53.7%
Other 2.5%

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 release, we have had zero newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19. Therefore, our overall number is still 203 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. <u>People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms</u>. 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.

<u>Anyone entering healthcare facilities should be prepared to be screened before entering.</u>

PSA: Considerations for Restaurants and Bars - Maintaining Healthy Operations

PROTECTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES AT HIGHER RISK FOR SEVERE ILLNESS FROM COVID-19

- Offer options for employees at higher risk for severe illness (including older adults and people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions) that limits their exposure risk (e.g., modified job responsibilities such as managing inventory rather than working as a cashier, or managing administrative needs through telework).
- Consistent with applicable law, develop policies to protect the privacy of persons at higher risk for severe illness in accordance with applicable privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations.

REGULATORY AWARENESS

- Be aware of local or state policies and recommendations related to group gatherings to determine if events can be held.

STAGGERED OR ROTATED SHIFTS AND SITTING

- Rotate or stagger shifts to limit the number of employees in the restaurant or bar at the same time.

- Stagger and limit dining times to minimize the number of customers in the establishment.
- When possible, use flexible worksites (e.g., telework) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts) to help establish policies and practices for social distancing (maintaining distance of approximately 6 feet) between employees and others, especially if social distancing is recommended by state and local health authorities.

GATHERINGS

- Avoid group events, gatherings, or meetings where social distancing of at least 6 feet between people cannot be maintained.

TRAVEL AND TRANSIT

- Encourage employees who use mass transit to consider using other transportation options (e.g., walking or biking, driving or riding by car- alone or with household members only) if feasible

DESIGNATED COVID-19 POINT OF CONTACT

- Designate a staff person for each shift to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All staff members should know who this person is and how to contact them.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

- Put systems in place for:
  - Consistent with applicable law and privacy policies, having staff self-report to the establishment's point of contact if they have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days in accordance with health information sharing regulations for COVID-19 and other applicable privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations.
    - Notifying staff, customers, and the public of business closures, and restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure (e.g., limited hours of operation).

LEAVE (TIME OFF) POLICIES

- Implement flexible sick leave policies and practices that enable employees to stay home when they are sick, have been exposed, or caring for someone who is sick.
  - Examine and revise policies for leave, telework, and employee compensation.
  - Leave policies should be flexible and not punish people for taking time off and should allow sick employees to stay home and away from co-workers. Leave policies should also account for employees who need to stay home with their

children if there are school or childcare closures, or to care for sick family members.

- Develop policies for return-to-work after COVID-19 illness. See the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation for these policies.

BACK-UP STAFFING PLAN

- Monitor absenteeism of employees, cross-train staff, and create a roster of trained back-up staff.

STAFF TRAINING

- Train all employees in safety actions.
- Conduct training virtually, or ensure that social distancing is maintained during training.

RECOGNIZE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Conduct daily health checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or or symptom checking) of staff safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.
  - o Consider using examples of screening methods in CDC's General Business FAQs as a guide.

SUPPORT COPING AND RESILIENCE

- Promote employees eating healthy, exercising, getting sleep, and finding time to unwind.
- Encourage employees to talk with people they trust about their concerns and how they are feeling.
- Consider posting signs for the national distress hotline: 1-800-985-5990, or text TalkWithUs to 66746.

###

For more information, please contact:
Meagan Bowers
Health Educator
Macon County Health Department
mbowers@maconchd.org