



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 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 7/17/2020

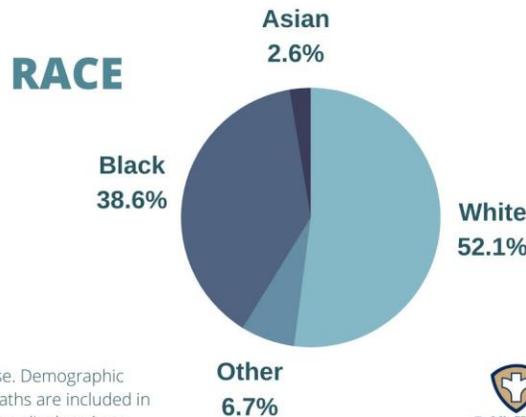
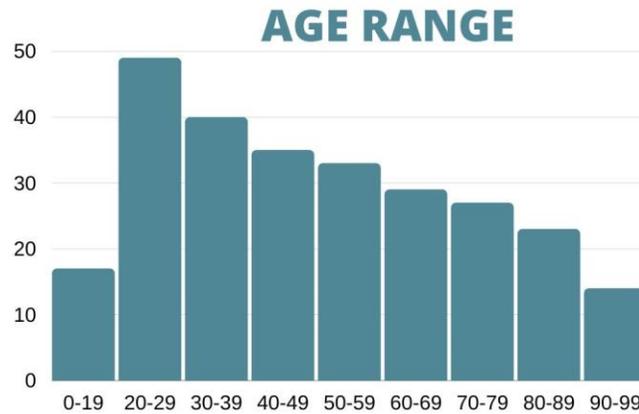
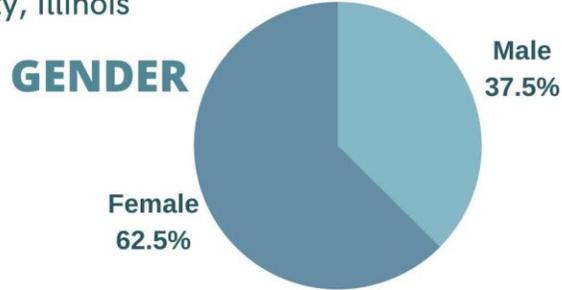
Confirmed Cases
267

Released from Isolation
216

Home Isolation
25

Hospitalized
3

Deaths
23



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 the previous release, we have had five newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19. Therefore, our overall number is 267 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.

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

PSA: Evidence for Effectiveness of Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings are recommended by the CDC as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. This recommendation is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows cloth face coverings reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of cloth face coverings is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

CDC recommends all people 2 years of age and older wear a cloth face covering in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Cloth face coverings should not be worn by children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

To view more information on this topic, visit the CDC's website.

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