EDWIN CARD, MD, FACS
Chief Medical Officer
McDonough District Hospital

“We have to remember that 80 percent of people who get the coronavirus are going to have a mild illness and the treatment for that is for them to shelter at home in isolation. In that group a test does not change the management of the problem... If you think of an epidemic as a series of dominos in a row, and you tip the first one and they all start falling, the idea with spacing and staying at home is that we pull some dominos out of the line so that hopefully stops a specific line of progression and slows the disease. It does not guarantee we won’t eventually become infected but it slows the rate, and allows the medical system to accommodate the number of people who may have the illness.”

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in the state of Illinois (Illinois Department of Public Health: DPH.Illinois.gov) as of April 6

12,262

Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in McDonough County (per McDonough County Health Department) as of April 6

0

Number of NEGATIVE tests results from McDonough County. & Number of PENDING tests results from McDonough County (as of April 6... these numbers are fluid and should be considered an estimate. )

37/8

NEW PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT VIDEO: The McDonough County agency leaders, McDonough County Board of Directors Chair, Western Illinois University Interim President, Mayor of Macomb and MDH administration released a new Public Service Announcement. Go to MDH.org/COVID19 to watch the video.

EXPANDED TELEHEALTH OPTION: McDonough District Hospital has expanded outpatient TeleHealth services amid the current COVID-19 pandemic to better serve its patients. MDH providers will utilize a program called Doxy.me for a video visit with their patients. There is no software to download or accounts to create with this new TeleHealth service. All that a patient needs is a computer or device with a camera and microphone. All the data is encrypted and no patient information is stored on Doxy.me. All HIPAA privacy requirements are met with this new service. Patients with questions about the TeleHealth service can call their respective clinic.

According to Peter Rao, Vice President of the MDH Medical Group, some MDH providers have already begun to use the TeleHealth service with positive results and feedback. This allows patients, concerned about going out due to the Stay at Home order, to keep their regularly scheduled appointment time.

“During this time of social distancing, it is important to ensure that we still continue to take care of all our patients. TeleHealth gives the opportunity to visually assess and manage the health of our patients,” said Rao.

LAB DRAW HOURS AT THE DRIVE-THRU SCREENING STATION: Patients can now have routine blood draws performed at the drive-thru screening station from 7-11 a.m. There will be a special time from 7-8 a.m. specifically for patients that are immunocompromised or high risk. All patients utilizing this service will need to call (309) 836-1585 to be pre-registered and scheduled as this requires a physician order. During inclement weather, this will be performed at the hospital.

DRIVE-THRU SCREENING STATION HOURS: The drive-thru screening station is currently open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and operates seven days a week. Patients must be pre-registered to access the drive-thru. The nurse triage telephone hotline (309) 836-1715 is available from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. seven days a week.