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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCDH RECOMMENDS ORGANIZERS CONSIDER POSTPONING NONESSENTIAL PUBLIC EVENTS AND MEETINGS

WOODSTOCK – The McHenry County Department of Health (MDCH) is urging municipalities and organizations to consider postponing nonessential public events and meetings.

The recommendation to consider postponing events comes after a McHenry County resident in his late teens was one of the recent COVID-19 cases testing positive by an Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory with no known risk of travel or contact with another case. As organizers weigh their decisions on the benefits and risks of hosting nonessential public events and meetings it is recommended to review the [CDC recommendations related to hosting mass gatherings or large community events](#).

According to the CDC, older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. People who are at higher risk are encouraged to avoid crowds as much as possible.

Melissa Adamson, MCDH Public Health Administrator, said it is unknown how the McHenry County teen was exposed to the virus, which is why it's best to be cautious to reduce the risk of community spread.

"Now is the time to begin educating the public about social distancing to reduce community spread of COVID-19," Adamson said. "We understand large events are what pulls a community together, but all of us must consider what we can do to reduce the risk of contracting and passing along COVID-19 as well as other circulating viruses, like the flu."

MCDH encourages all residents to wash hands frequently, do not touch face, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home when sick. Anyone experiencing respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, sore throat, and/or shortness of breath should contact their primary care physician for consultation and/or evaluation.

Get the latest guidance for schools, employers and community preparedness by visiting [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#) or by visiting <http://bit.ly/mcdhCOVID19>. For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov.

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