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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PPE should only be used by healthcare professionals

WOODSTOCK – As personal protection equipment (PPE) continues to be in short supply, the McHenry County Department of Health reminds the community that masks and gloves are not necessary for the majority of people.

Those who are well and healthy do not need to wear a mask unless they have been instructed to do so by their doctor.

“This may be recommended for ill family members who cannot isolate themselves from the rest of their family,” said Dr. Laura Buthod, MCDH Medical Advisor. “Masks and gloves are most needed by our healthcare workers and first responders who come in contact with body fluids and secretions on a regular basis. Please do not take these needed supplies away from these helpers in our community. Lack of these supplies put them at risk for infection so they can’t help us when we need them.”

Homemade face masks and gloves gives people a false sense of security against COVID-19, Buthod stated.

“You could still touch your mouth or eyes with contaminated gloves and spread the virus to yourself. As we have been stating over and over again, staying home, washing your hands effectively for 20 seconds, and keeping a 6 foot social distance when you must be out are the most effective strategies for preventing infection.”

MCDH asks you to adhere to these simple rules to protect our older neighbors and those with chronic health problems at higher risk of death from coronavirus.

Get the latest guidance for school, employers and community preparedness by visiting [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#) or by visiting mcdh.info. For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov.