FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pike County, IL – Residents of long-term care facilities are at high risk of contracting the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to living in a congregate setting and having underlying health conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes. Those underlying health conditions can result in more severe cases of the virus. Pike County Health Department (PCHD) has been working with long-term care facilities in the county to provide much needed personal protection equipment (PPE) to keep residents and staff protected against the virus.

According to Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), 32.31% of COVID-19 outbreaks are in long-term care. Sixty-two percent of the positive cases have required hospitalization and 24% have died as of 4/21/2020.

Administrators of long-term care facilities have restricted visitors and have followed IDPH guidance in efforts to reduce the chance of the virus getting inside their facilities and infecting residents. Being unable to see or visit loved ones in long-term care facilities is extremely difficult for both the residents and their families.

There are no known lab confirmed positive cases or COVID-19 outbreaks in Pike County long-term care facilities.

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