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TO: DeKalb County News Media

FROM: Lisa Gonzalez
Public Health Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 Alternative Housing Site Established in Partnership with Northern Illinois University

Collaboration is significant in the local effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Initial experience with COVID-19 infections in Illinois demonstrated a need to provide alternative housing for those who are awaiting testing results or have tested positive and do not have another way to appropriately isolate or quarantine (i.e. family members or friends who can assist in alternative housing arrangements).

Over the past several weeks, the DeKalb County Health Department has been working collaboratively with the DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency and Northern Illinois University to establish a local plan for alternative housing. The plan secures alternative housing for individuals who are not able to isolate/quarantine in their own home.

The directive to develop the Alternative Housing Plan came from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to the DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency. DeKalb County Health Department is the lead agency responsible for coordination and implementation of the DeKalb County plan.

The plan identifies the NIU Holmes Student Center Hotel as the primary alternative housing site and outlines provisions for registration of patients and meeting the healthcare, nutrition, transportation, social and personal needs of individual patients during the time of isolation or quarantine. Many community partners have stepped forward to assist in the implementation of the plan.

We are very fortunate to have established working relationships with our partners at NIU and their dedication for providing support to our DeKalb County Community. Together we will get through this.

For general questions about COVID-19, call the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov

Community members can email questions to COVID19@dekalbcounty.org. Please note, this email is not used to provide medical advice. If you have personal medical questions, please contact your healthcare provider. Community members can [sign up for the newsletter online](#) by visiting the DCHD website.

