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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Command Responds to COVID-19

Knox County, IL – (March 17, 2020) In response to the novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) the Galesburg/Knox County Emergency Management Agency has activated its Unified Emergency Operation Center. This means the City of Galesburg and Knox County are taking precautionary measures to prepare for potential spread of the disease.

Staff from multiple disciplines are working together to constantly monitor for possible cases in our area and are following protocol developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Communication will be issued to the public if, and when, new information becomes available.

Members of the EOC include representatives from Community Unit School District 205, Knox County, City of Galesburg, Knox County Health Department, Galesburg Hospitals Ambulance Service, Galesburg Cottage Hospital, OSF Healthcare, Regional Office of Education, and others.

There will be a press conference for the EOC tomorrow **Wednesday, March 18th, 10:00 a.m. Galesburg City Hall, Council Chambers.** The press conference will be closed to the public; however, residents can participate by watching remotely on Public Comcast Channel 7 or online through the City of Galesburg's website www.ci.galesburg.il.us via tablet or cell phone.

In the upcoming days and weeks, we ask members of the media to stay in touch with us to confirm all facts so the public is assured of the most accurate information we can provide. All briefings and information will be disseminated from Join Information Center, located in the City's Erickson Conference Room.

We will conduct regular briefings when information becomes available. This briefing will be the only place where officials authorized to speak about COVID-19 and confirmed information will be available. Up-to-date information will also be provided through the City of Galesburg's and Knox County Health Department's Facebook pages and Twitter accounts. For more information on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 visit the CDC page at www.cdc.gov.