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**Contact:** Taylor Eades, PIO  
(815)432-2483  
[teades@co.iroquois.il.us](mailto:teades@co.iroquois.il.us)

## PRESS RELEASE

### **ICPHD Senior Services Team Dedicated to Assisting Older Residents During COVID-19 Outbreak**

The Iroquois County Public Health Department is continuing to monitor the development of COVID-19 in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). According to the CDC, the populations most at risk include older adults and those with chronic medical conditions. It is imperative that measures continue to be taken to protect the aging population. During this difficult time, the Senior Services team is dedicated to the health and well-being of Iroquois County residents age 60 and older.

Ensuring the safety of our Community Care Program participants, staff and volunteers while providing essential services to our older adults in light of the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) pandemic is our top priority. While we are continuing to provide services, the changes below have been implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus:

- Participant will receive a phone call instead of a face-to-face visit for their assessment.
- Participants may be asked a number of questions every day about changes to their health.
- Participants may also be asked again to confirm information such as their emergency contact and pharmacy.

Every effort will be made to assure Community Care Program services, such as, in-home assistance and emergency home response, will continue without interruption.

**We will also be extending our assistance to all Iroquois County residents age 60 or older who may be in need. If you are age 60 or older, homebound with no assistance and in need of essential care items, such as food, medical supplies, or personal hygiene products, please contact Emily Shay, Director of Senior Services at 815-432-2483. You can also call the Illinois Department on Aging's senior helpline at 1-800-252-8966.**