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Press Release

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At press time, there is a total of 199 cases of COVID-19 in the Lincoln Trail District. Additional cases were confirmed today in Hardin and Marion Counties. The total number of cases per county is as follows: Hardin--100, LaRue--9, Marion--21, Meade--22, Nelson--41, and Washington--6. Currently, 188 cases are on home isolation or have been released from monitoring. County-level information can be found on the COVID-19 Latest Updates tab at ltdhd.org.

Anyone can contract COVID-19, but those who reside in nursing homes are disproportionately affected. The virus hits nursing homes and other long-term care facilities to a greater degree because the disease is particularly lethal to the elderly. According to the Centers for Disease Control, this population is at higher risk for infection, serious illness, and death from COVID-19. Factors that increase their risk include co-occurring medical conditions and weakened immune systems. People living and working in congregate settings like nursing homes may have difficulty maintaining physical distancing since staff come into frequent direct contact with patients. For example, many nursing home residents need assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, feeding, or walking.

As of May 28th, 227 of Kentucky’s 409 COVID-19 related deaths have been among nursing home residents. One tactic to protect this vulnerable population is to increase testing capacity within these facilities. Recently, Gov. Beshear announced that the state will begin an aggressive program to test patients and staff in long-term care facilities over the next two months. Testing allows for cases of COVID-19 to be quickly identified among residents and staff, especially since many are asymptomatic. Confirmed cases can then be isolated to reduce the spread to others within a facility. The Lincoln Trail District has nineteen nursing homes within its service area. The staff of these facilities have done an incredible job of implementing preventive public health and infection control practices that have reduced the spread of COVID-19 among their patients.