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Press Release

Media Contact: Terrie Burgan, RN, BSN, MPH

At press time, there is a total of 64 cases of COVID-19 in the Lincoln Trail District. An additional case was confirmed in Meade County. The total number of cases per county is as follows: Hardin—28, LaRue--4, Marion--13, Meade--3, Nelson--13, and Washington--3. Currently, 57 cases are on home isolation or have been released from monitoring.

What we know about COVID-19 changes almost daily. As a result, we would like to take this opportunity to address some of the frequently asked questions our media partners have received from the general public.

1. **If someone tests positive for the virus, why aren't all the members in that household also tested?** In the words of the Governor, “there is still a resource scarcity, and we want to make sure that those who need testing the most, get it.” For that reason, persons who receive a test must meet certain criteria, even those who live in the household of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Individuals with no symptoms are considered the lowest priority. Health care providers, individuals with chronic medical conditions, or those with compromised immune systems that are exhibiting active symptoms need to be diagnosed quickly, and thus receive priority for testing.

2. **How much longer is everything going to be shut down?** In comparison to surrounding states, Governor Beshear’s early actions have saved lives and dramatically reduced the number of cases within Kentucky. The Governor has suggested that projections may indicate the possibility for lifting social distancing restrictions in early May. According to the Governor, restrictions will not be lifted all at once. In addition, there must be scientific evidence that would support this decision such as a sustained downward trend in the number of new cases and a marked resiliency present in high-risk populations. A second spike in cases can occur if physical distancing restrictions are lifted too soon. Early reports from China are indicating a resurgence in new cases which demonstrates that this possibility is real. Kentuckians must understand that this may be our new norm until May or perhaps longer.
3. **How many testing kits are available in the county and where?** Lincoln Trail District Health Department does not administer COVID-19 tests, nor are we notified of how many tests are available or how many have been administered within our service area. The decision to test is made by the medical provider, based on the patient’s symptoms. Our responsibility as it relates to testing is to investigate each confirmed COVID-19 case within our counties. Information about the number of tests administered within Kentucky can be found at kycovid19.ky.gov.

4. **Is the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) airborne? What is known about that aspect of this virus at this time?** The coronavirus is thought to spread primarily from person to person. This can happen between people who are in close contact with one another. Droplets that are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes may land in the mouth or nose of people nearby or be inhaled into their lungs. A person infected with COVID-19—even one with no symptoms—may emit aerosols when they talk or exhale. Another person can breathe in these aerosols and become infected with the coronavirus. Therefore, everyone should cover their nose and mouth when they must go out in public. The virus can also spread through contact with infected surfaces or objects. For example, a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object contaminated with the virus and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

Because there is so much changing information out there regarding COVID-19, we encourage you to use reliable sources of information such as the LTDHD website: [Ltdhd.org](http://Ltdhd.org) or the Kentucky state website: [Kycovid19.ky.gov](http://Kycovid19.ky.gov).