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Press Release

Media Contact: Terrie Burgan, RN, BSN, MPH

At press time, there is a total of 67 cases of COVID-19 in the Lincoln Trail District. Additional cases were confirmed in Hardin and Nelson Counties. The total number of cases per county is as follows: Hardin—30, LaRue—4, Marion—13, Meade--3, Nelson--14, and Washington--3. Currently, 60 cases are on home isolation or have been released from monitoring.

Data released by Governor Beshear indicates that African Americans are experiencing worse consequences from COVID-19 compared to other races. In Kentucky, 22% of deaths have been among this minority group. At first glance, this percentage does not suggest cause for alarm. However, African Americans only make up 8.3% of the state’s total population. This means that African American deaths related to COVID-19 are almost 3 times greater than the African American population in Kentucky.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), people who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Pre-existing medical conditions have occurred at higher rates within communities of color for many years. Higher rates of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and kidney disease can intensify an already deadly situation. Lower income individuals and people of color have historically experienced poorer health status compared to more socially advantaged groups.

Other factors must be considered when examining the potential impact of COVID-19 within this community. Living conditions, access to health care, cultural norms, racism, and access to healthy foods are issues that affect many African Americans daily. Finally, many within communities of color have a mistrust for medical authorities and delay seeking care. COVID-19 progresses quickly. When symptoms develop (e.g. fever plus cough and/or shortness of breath) it is important to contact your health care provider and follow their guidance. If you do not have a health insurance, visit https://kyhbe.ky.gov/ to enroll.