May 2, 2020
Press Release

At press time, there is a total of 111 cases of COVID-19 in the Lincoln Trail District. Additional cases were confirmed in Hardin County. The total number of cases per county is as follows: Hardin--47, LaRue--5, Marion--17, Meade--14, Nelson--23, and Washington--5. Currently, 104 cases are on home isolation or have been released from monitoring. Visit ltdhd.org for county-level information.

As testing increases within Lincoln Trail District Health Department counties, a clearer view of COVID-19 community spread will emerge. Testing will simply reveal what public health officials have known all along—COVID-19 is widespread, and transmission is ongoing. Some will have symptoms, but 80% of people will not. The silence of this virus should drive our actions as Kentucky begins to reopen. It should also serve as a consistent reminder that what we once considered normal has changed for the foreseeable future.

One example is the need for masks. According to Governor Beshear, in businesses allowed to be operational, employees must wear masks. This directive does not only apply to employees, but to the general public as well. Any individual who must leave their home for work, needed supplies, or medical care must now include a face mask as part of their standard wardrobe.

Businesses permitted to open in May must ensure that certain health and safety measures are met. Companies will not be able to resume pre-COVID-19 operations. Plans and processes must comply with state and public health officials’ requirements to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in their facilities. Now is the time for businesses to begin to think through these processes and plan for how they can resume operations in a manner that protects workers and customers.

Finally, “Healthy at Home” will continue to be part of Kentucky’s new routine in the months to come. This simple practice will save countless lives. It will ensure we are doing all we can to protect those at highest risk (e.g. older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions) for severe complications from COVID-19. We must keep in mind that our return to normal depends on a COVID-19 timeline not a specific date. Until a vaccine or medical treatment is available to defeat this virus, we need to be prepared for a new version of normal.