May 4, 2020
Press Release

At press time, there is a total of 115 cases of COVID-19 in the Lincoln Trail District. We are saddened to report a patient death in Hardin County. Additional cases were confirmed today in Hardin and Nelson Counties. The total number of cases per county is as follows: Hardin--50, LaRue--5, Marion--17, Meade--14, Nelson--24, and Washington--5. Currently, 106 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.

As more facilities are permitted to reopen, cleaning and disinfection will become especially important. Cleaning and disinfecting are not the same. Cleaning refers to removing dirt and germs from surfaces. This process does not kill germs, but instead lowers the number of germs present and the risk for spreading infection. Disinfecting means using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. Disinfecting does not clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it further lowers the risk of spreading disease.

Businesses should evaluate their space and develop a plan to make their facility as safe as possible to reopen and stay open while complying with the Governor’s guidelines. Workplaces should determine which surfaces just need routine cleaning and which frequently touched surfaces (such as light switches, countertops, and doorknobs) need cleaning and disinfection. They should look at what items can be relocated or removed entirely to avoid contact by multiple people. This is especially important for items that are soft and porous and challenging to disinfect. Most disinfectants should not be applied to items used by children, especially ones they might put in their mouths.

Managers also need to plan for the safety of custodial staff and others responsible for cleaning and disinfection duties. These staff members are at increased risk of being exposed to the virus and to the toxic effects of some cleaning agents. Cleaning staff should be provided with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves. When EPA-approved disinfectants are not available, alternatives include bleach (1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water) and 70% alcohol solutions. Businesses must also obtain an adequate supply of hand sanitizer and soap for staff and patrons. Facilities must be careful not to overuse or stockpile supplies—this can result in shortages for others at this critical time.