May 6, 2020
Press Release

At press time, there is a total of 125 cases of COVID-19 in the Lincoln Trail District. Additional cases were confirmed today in Hardin, LaRue and Nelson Counties. The total number of cases per county is as follows: Hardin--53, LaRue--6, Marion--17, Meade--16, Nelson--28, and Washington--5. Currently, 113 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 lthd.org.

In December 2019, a new virus, later identified as COVID-19, appeared on the global scene. Since its discovery, COVID-19 has invaded over 215 countries or territories, infected over 3 million, and caused the deaths of 245,150 people. Scientists and medical officials across the international community have worked tirelessly to create a vaccine or find a treatment for a shared enemy. Although, these potential cures remain elusive, there is promise on the horizon.

- In March, the anti-malaria drugs hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine were suggested as treatment options for COVID-19. However, in late April the FDA issued a warning against the use of both drugs outside of a medical facility citing potentially life-threatening heart rhythm problems associated with the medications. Additionally, the Journal of the American Medical Association cited that a clinical study of chloroquine had ceased after some participants developed irregular heartbeats and almost two dozen people died.
- May 1st the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization for the antiviral drug remdesivir. There is still limited information about the effectiveness of remdesivir, but the investigational drug has shown in clinical trial to shorten the recovery time in some COVID-19 patients hospitalized with severe disease. Severe disease has been defined as patients with low blood oxygen levels or those needing intensive breathing support such as a ventilator.
- One therapy that is currently under investigation is the use of convalescent plasma. When people recover from COVID-19, their blood contains antibodies that were produced to fight the virus. These antibodies are found in plasma. The antibodies in the donor plasma could help a COVID-19 patient fight the illness, or at least reduce the severity of the disease.
- Although not a treatment option, antibody testing can help identify people who have recovered from coronavirus. This is a type of blood test that specifically looks for antibodies against COVID-19. This may include those who were not initially identified because they had no symptoms, or they could not get tested. Antibody tests could provide a picture of how many people have been infected, how many have recovered, and the true fatality rate. These tests may also provide information about whether people develop immunity to COVID-19 and how long that immunity lasts.