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**Topic: COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY** 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 6/30/2020-6/30/2020

## **DISTRICT COVID-19 UPDATES AND CONTACT TRACING**

The Barren River District Health Department has confirmed 2,307 cases of COVID-19 in the Barren River District, 1,735 of which have recovered. Our district has 60 deaths reported from COVID-19. We stand in solidarity with those affected during these difficult times. Please see the breakdown of numbers by county below.

COUNTY	CONFIRMED CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS
Barren	81	65	2
Butler	253	130	14
Edmonson	81	73	11
Hart	47	35	0
Logan	224	158	14
Metcalfe	10	6	2
Simpson	80	55	3
Warren	1531	1213	14
Total	2307	1735	60

## What is Contact Tracing and How Does it Help?

The Barren River District Health Department is accustomed to doing contact tracing as part of our routine communicable disease investigation process. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been conducting contact tracing to slow the spread of the disease in our communities. Contact Tracing is key to safely get back to work while also kick-starting the economy.

- Public Health workers reach out to individuals who have COVID-19 to assess their situation, provide helpful resources, and ask about any recent in-person contacts who may have been exposed to the disease.
- Recent in-person contacts are notified that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are offered
  instructions and connected to local resources. Individuals receive follow-up calls to see how they are doing and
  gather any new information.
- By following the instructions provided by Public Health workers, contacts help stop the spread of COVID-19 and save the lives of Kentuckians.

## **Contact Tracing and Patient Privacy**

In order to protect patients' confidentiality, contacts will not be told the identity of the person who may have exposed them. They will be told what they need to do to care for themselves, reduce the risk to others, and protect their communities from any further exposure.



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Contact Tracers will never ask you for personal financial information, money, or your passwords. This confidential statewide system will allow us to follow where a virus may travel ... across county lines or beyond ... so we can warn people and stop further viral spread.

In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, we must continue to follow recommendations provided by the CDC, the state, and Governor Andy Beshear. Practicing social distancing is the most important method for staying healthy. We urge Barren River residents to stay at home, and leave only for essential items such as groceries and medications. When possible, choose online ordering, delivery, and curbside pickup services to obtain these items.

Here are 10 steps to fight COVID-19 from Governor Andy Beshear:

- Stay healthy at home. Leave only for essential items such as groceries once a week.
- Avoid crowds and gatherings. Avoid crowds of any size, including home visits, recreational areas, or crowded shopping locations.
- Practice social distancing. Maintain six feet between yourself and others at all times.
- Know when to seek care. Follow the "When to Seek Care" guidelines available at https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19
- Stay up-to-date through reliable resources such as KYCOVID19.KY.GOV and barrenriverhealth.org.
- Wash hands and surfaces frequently. Use warm water and soap and wash hands for at least 20 seconds. Disinfect regularly used surfaces multiple times a day.
- Apply for benefits. Kentucky has expanded unemployment benefits. If you have not applied, visit KCC.KY.GOV.
- Prioritize mental health. Seek out virtual social opportunities and maintain a daily routine.
- Only travel for essential items. Avoid carpooling and public transit. The safest place for you and others is at home.
- Report non-compliance. If you see individuals or businesses not complying with COVID-19 guidelines, report to the KYSAFER hotline at 1-833-597-2337 or online at https://secure.kentucky.gov/formservices/Labor/KYSAFER.

For questions about COVID-19, call Kentucky's COVID-19 Hotline at (800) 722-5725, BRDHD's COVID-19 Information Line at 270-781-8039, visit www.barrenriverhealth.org/covid-19-information, or https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19.

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