

Barren River

DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan,
Metcalfe, Simpson, and Warren Counties



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**Topic: COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9/4/2020-9/4/2020**

DISTRICT COVID-19 UPDATES AND CONTACT TRACING

The Barren River District Health Department has confirmed a total of 5,504 cases, 4,139 of which have recovered. We have 103 deaths reported from COVID-19. We stand in solidarity with those affected during these difficult times. See the breakdown of numbers by county below. Please note that a decrease in numbers is due to the county of residence or case status being corrected/updated from what was previously reported.

COUNTY	RECOVERED	DEATHS	TOTAL CASES
Barren	417	10	520
Butler	264	16	327
Edmonson	113	12	135
Hart	120	1	156
Logan	350	26	465
Metcalfe	75	2	92
Simpson	169	7	240
Warren	2631	29	3569
Total	4139	103	5504

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

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communities from any further exposure. 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.
- Wear a face mask when in public. To see the mandatory mask executive order from Governor Beshear, visit https://governor.ky.gov/attachments/20200709_Executive-Order_State-of-Emergency.pdf.
- 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](https://www.ky.gov/covid19) and [barrenriverhealth.org](https://www.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](https://www.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 visit www.barrenriverhealth.org/covid-19-information, or <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>.

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