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For Immediate Release

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CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS DISCUSS COVID-19 PREPARATIONS

VERSAILLES, Ky. (March 5, 2020) – 34 officials convened today for a Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation briefing provided by Woodford County Health Department and Woodford County Emergency Management. Representatives from departments in Midway, Versailles, and Woodford County were provided with the latest guidance from the Kentucky Department for Public Health and Centers for Disease Control.

Woodford County first began discussing outbreak preparedness at the end of January, well before the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the United States. Judge/Executive James Kay, who also serves as the Board of Health Chair stated, “Our health department and emergency management teams are actively updating plans based on the scientific research released by state and federal partners.” Though smaller outbreaks have occurred over the last decade, the county last dealt with a pandemic during the 2009 H1N1 outbreak.

“Monitoring health status to identify and solve community health problems is an essential public health function,” said Cassie Prather, Public Health Director. “Today’s briefing was the next step in mobilizing partnerships to deal with this rapidly evolving situation.” She urged community members to rely on trusted information sources and recommended good practices to help prevent the spread of disease:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Practice other good health habits. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

Leaders created a page on the County’s website which will be updated with COVID-19 information as more is learned about the virus. That page is accessible at woodfordcounty.ky.gov/Pages/covid-19.aspx. For additional preparedness information, visit www.ready.gov and download the Heads Up Community Mobile App to receive the latest notifications.

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