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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Taney County Health Department Updates COVID-19 Numbers
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The Taney County Health Department (TCHD) is saddened to confirm the deaths of nine Taney County residents due to COVID-19. The individuals passed mid-November into December. The death's included 2 males in their 60's, 2 males in their 70's, and 2 males in their 80's. The deaths of 3 females, one in her 70's, one in her 80's and one in her 90's have also been confirmed. The total of Taney County residents whose deaths can be attributed to COVID-19 is now 55.

TCHD announces COVID-19 deaths after the county of residence and the cause of death can be confirmed with both the Taney County Coroner's Office and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. As a result, Taney County death count updates will lag behind numbers announced by the state.

TCHD continues to encourage residents to take appropriate COVID-19 precautions as we continue to move through the winter months. These include physical distancing, hand hygiene, staying home when sick, wearing a face covering, and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces. TCHD also highly encourages residents to get a flu vaccination, as flu season is here.

"Prevention is of utmost importance, especially during the winter months." states Lisa Marshall, TCHD Director. "Cooler weather encourages indoor gatherings, which increases opportunities for transmission. We need our community to continue their diligence in hand hygiene, physical distancing, watching gathering sizes, staying home when sick, and wearing face coverings."

Our condolences go out to all the families who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19.

For more information contact the Taney County Health Department at 417-334-4544, visit our website at www.taneycohealth.org, or like our FaceBook, Instagram and Pinterest pages.

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The Taney County Health Department envisions a community of healthy people. Every day, we work to achieve this vision through leadership, collaboration, education and service. We value integrity, learning, teamwork, positive communication, quality improvement and dedicated service. Please visit our website <http://www.taneycohealth.org> to learn more about our services.