



McPherson County Health Department  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

From: Shalei Shea, RN BSN  
McPherson County Health Department Director and McPherson County Health Officer

April 9, 2020 at 5:15 pm

### **COMMUNITY SPREAD DETERMINED IN MCPHERSON COUNTY**

MCPHERSON COUNTY – Due to the increasing amount of COVID-19 cases in McPherson County without a history of travel, McPherson County Health Department believes it is likely that the disease is spread person to person, indicating community spread.

McPherson County Health Department defines community spread as five or more cases not related to travel.

The local health department has also identified a positive case of COVID-19 involving an employee at Dillons, 1320 N Main St, McPherson, KS 67460. While the employee was not symptomatic while at work, the individual was at work immediately prior to symptoms. Those who shopped at the above Dillons store on March 31st, 2020 from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm or April 1st, 2020, from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Symptoms for COVID-19 appear 2-14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Other rarer symptoms that may develop include malaise, sore throat, and diarrhea. If you develop any of these symptoms, but are not ill enough to seek medical care, you must stay home for at least 7 days after symptoms started or for 72 hours after fever is gone (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and with significant improvement in symptoms, whichever is longer. If you develop these symptoms and need to seek medical care, call your healthcare provider beforehand and inform them that you may have been exposed to COVID-19 and require medical attention.

If you were at the above Dillons store during these specific dates and develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 between 2 and 14 days later, please call your health care provider. If you do not have a provider, please call your local hospital or the McPherson County Health Department at 620-241-1753 or email [machd@mcphersoncountyks.us](mailto:machd@mcphersoncountyks.us).

“We’ve been informed by an associate at our McPherson store, who has tested positive for COVID-19,” said Sheila Lowrie, Dillon Stores spokeswoman. “We are supporting our associate with an emergency paid leave and share our best for quick recovery. Upon learning of this case, we followed all sanitation and cleaning procedures as recommended by the CDC, communicated with, and supported our store team. We will continue to follow guidance from local, state and federal agencies, including the CDC and other health organizations.”

At Dillons, we continue to take steps to support and safeguard our associates and customers. We are fully continuing to employ CDC recommended sanitation and additional physical distancing procedures to help prevent the spread of any illness possible and help ensure the safety of all who enter our facilities.

Steps in action and completed at Dillons include:

- Completing a deep cleaning and sanitation of the store.
- Enhanced our daily sanitation practices, including increased frequency of cleaning commonly used areas such as cashier stations, self-checkouts, credit card terminals, food service counters, carts, and hand baskets.

- Provided masks and gloves to our associates to wear at work.
- Established hand-washing rotation for front-end associates to allow for an opportunity to wash hands and rehydrate. Hand sanitizer continues to be available.
- Installed plexiglass partitions at check lanes, pharmacy and customer service locations to further limit close interpersonal contact between associates and customers during this time.
- Added floor decals and signage to promote safe physical distancing.
- Adopted limits to the number of customers entering our stores at one time.
- Reduced store operations hours to allow for associates to rest, clean, and stock the stores. Additionally, designated hours for seniors and higher-risk customer have been implemented.

McPherson County residents are encouraged to help the community and our health care system flatten the curve and slow the spread of coronavirus. They can do this by:

- Following the Stay-At-Home Order
- Covering all coughs and sneezes.
- Washing your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.

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