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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IDENTIFIED IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson County Health Department reports 19 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. Ten of the total confirmed cases have met recovery guidelines set forth by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. One of the total confirmed cases is currently hospitalized. Nothing further about the cases will be released at this time.

The two latest identified positive cases are female in their 20s and 50s. Both are recovering at home. One of the positive cases is an employee at Dillons, 1320 N Main St, McPherson. This individual attended work on April 16, 17, 18 and 19, from 5:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you were a customer at Dillons during the listed dates and times, you 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, contact your health care provider and inform them you that you may have been exposed to COVID-19 and now have symptoms. 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 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 local 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.

“We have received word from 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. At the present time, we are working directly to support our store team and are continuing to follow all sanitation and cleaning procedures as recommended by the CDC. We are also committed to following guidance from local, state and federal agencies, including the CDC and other health organizations.”

At Dillons, we have implemented additional 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 store.

Steps in action and completed at Dillons include:

- Completing a deep cleaning and sanitation of the store.
- Mandating the use of masks or face coverings with our associates and temperature checks prior to the start of their shifts. This process will be put into place following a brief training with our leadership team to complete the practices safely and effectively.
- 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.
- Established hand-washing rotation for front-end associates to allow for an opportunity to wash hands and rehydrate. Hand sanitizer continues to be available and should be used in accordance to CDC guidelines.
- 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 customers 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.
- Wearing cloth face coverings or homemade masks when in public.

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