



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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June 9, 2020 at 11:35 am

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IDENTIFIED IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson County Health Department reports 38 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County, and one is hospitalized at this time. 26 of the total confirmed cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

- The first newest positive case is a male under 18, currently recovering at home, with known exposure to a positive case.
- The second newest positive case is a female under 18, currently recovering at home, with known exposure to a positive case.
- The third newest positive case is a female under 18, currently recovering at home, with known exposure to a positive case.
- The fourth newest positive case is a female under 18, currently recovering at home, with known exposure to a positive case.
- The fifth newest positive case is a female under 18, currently recovering at home, with known exposure to a positive case.

The five new cases are household members of a positive case related to a cluster at a private company in McPherson County. Facility-wide testing is taking place to identify any asymptomatic carriers. This private company does not have general public access; therefore, the location will not be released. Staff at this company have been contacted and are aware of the situation. Let this serve as a reminder that COVID-19 is still present in our communities, so please stay home if you are ill and maintain your distance when you are around others.

Symptoms for COVID-19 appear 2-14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, shortness of breath, malaise, sore throat, chills, and diarrhea. If you develop any of these symptoms, contact your health care provider. You must stay home for at least 10 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 symptoms that may indicate COVID-19, 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.

KDHE and MCHD continue to mandate a 14-day home quarantine for Kansas if you have done any of the following:

- Traveled within the United States to any of the following states with known widespread community transmission:
 - On or after March 15: New York
 - On or after March 23: Illinois, New Jersey
 - On or after April 6: Connecticut
 - On or after April 30: Massachusetts, Rhode Island
 - On or after May 12: Maryland
- Traveled internationally on or after March 15
- Traveled on a cruise ship or river cruise on or after March 15

We are now in Phase 3 of Reopening Kansas. McPherson County Health Department has updated local recommendations to reflect the phase. The documents can be found on mcphersoncountyks.us on the home page, under "COVID-19: Reopening McPherson County."

McPherson County residents are encouraged to help slow the spread of coronavirus by:

- Following Phase 3 of Reopening Kansas and McPherson County (mcphersoncountyks.us).
- Maintaining social distancing.
- Avoiding gatherings in groups greater than 45-persons.
- Wearing cloth face coverings or homemade masks when in public.
- Practicing cough etiquette and washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

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