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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IDENTIFIED IN MCPHERSON COUNTY**

McPherson County has had a tremendous uptake in coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the last week. An alarming amount of cases are asymptomatic, meaning they do not have any signs or symptoms. A portion of these positive cases report attending gatherings at local lakes, parties, or traveling sport tournaments while contagious. These are events both inside and outside of McPherson County. If you are notified of being a contact of someone who is positive for COVID-19, you **MUST** quarantine at home for 14 days. If you are a contact, decide to be tested, and it comes back negative, you **STILL** have to finish your 14 day period because you may become contagious anytime during the rest of the 14 days. We do not routinely recommend testing contacts unless symptoms arise or a high risk individual is involved.

If you are being tested for COVID-19, you are considered a Person Under Investigation (PUI). The PUI **MUST** isolate while waiting on results. The PUI should isolate away from anyone in their household. If they are not able to isolate away from the household members by staying in their own room, the entire household must quarantine while awaiting results to reduce exposure.

McPherson County Health Department reports 55 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 40 of the total confirmed cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the KDHE, including the 1 probable case.

- One newly positive case is a symptomatic male in his 50s with unknown exposure and is recovering at home.
- Another newly positive case is a symptomatic female in her 80s with unknown exposure and is recovering at home.
- Another newly positive case is an asymptomatic male in his 60s with unknown exposure and is recovering at home.
- Another newly positive case is a symptomatic male in his 40s with known exposure and is recovering at home.
- Another newly positive case is an asymptomatic male in his 20s with known exposure and is recovering at home.
- The final newly positive case is a symptomatic male in his 50s with known exposure and is recovering at home.

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 May 12: Maryland
  - On or after June 17: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas
- Traveled internationally on or after March 15
- Traveled on a cruise ship or river cruise on or after March 15

We are in Phase 3 of Reopening Kansas. Updated documents can be found on [mcpersoncountyks.us](http://mcpersoncountyks.us) on the home page, under "COVID-19: Reopening McPherson County." McPherson County Health Department recommends McPherson County remains in Phase 3 at least until July 6th, 2020. This decision is based off of the current facility investigation, increases in positive cases over the last 14 days, and the recommendation from KDHE.

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. If you do not have a provider, please call your local hospital, urgent care or the McPherson County Health Department.

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

- Following Phase 3 of Reopening Kansas and McPherson County ([mcpersoncountyks.us](http://mcpersoncountyks.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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