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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson County Health Department reports 176 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 156 of the total confirmed cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the KDHE. There are zero current hospitalizations and one death.

- Positive case #176 is a symptomatic female in her 60s with known exposure and is recovering at home.

McPherson County is in Phase 3 of Reopening Kansas. Updated documents can be found on 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 September 14th, 2020. This decision extends Phase 3 again by two incubation periods and is based off the number of positive cases with unknown exposure and the continuous increase in new cases. The Health Department will continue to evaluate the threat COVID-19 poses on our communities.

McPherson County Health Department is working closely with key partners to evaluate the upcoming school year. It is our goal to continue to keep the community informed. The percent of positive cases out of how many McPherson County residents were tested during a 14-day period will facilitate MCHD recommendations. Criteria that will influence the recommendation to move schools to more or less restrictive measures can be found on mcpersoncountyks.us on the home page, under "COVID-19: Reopening McPherson County." Data that is currently available includes:

- June 29 to July 12: 5.47% positive rate
- July 13 to July 26: 11.49% positive rate
- July 27 to August 9: 12.85% positive rate
 - This percentage was changed from the previous report due to more negative testing reports being received at MCHD for this time period

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

- Attended/traveled to a mass gathering event (out-of-state) of 500 people or greater on or after August 11.
- Traveled to:
 - Florida between June 29 – August 11.
- Traveled on a cruise ship or river cruise.
- Traveled internationally on or after July 14 to countries with a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice, including China, Iran, European Schengen area, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and Brazil. International travelers must follow [CDC guidance and protocols](#).

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

- Following Phase 3 of Reopening Kansas and McPherson County (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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