



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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August 26, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson County Health Department reports 190 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 174 of the total confirmed cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the KDHE. There are two current hospitalizations and one death.

The McPherson County Health Department is investigating an exposure at the OI Stuga, 119 S Main St. in Lindsborg. If you were at the OI Stuga on Thursday August 13th or Saturday August 15th from 5:00pm to 11:00pm, you may have been exposed to COVID-19 and require a 14-day quarantine. Please call McPherson County Health Department at (620)241-1753 for instruction.

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: 12.64% positive rate
 - A few more negative tests were reported to MCHD during this time period so the percentage has changed from the previously reported percentage.
- August 10 to August 23: 8.62% positive rate
 - This percentage is likely to change as more negative tests are reported to MCHD.

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 With Restrictions, including China, Iran, European Schengen area, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and Brazil. International travelers must follow [CDC guidance and protocols](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/qa/covid-19-international-travel.html).

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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