



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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September 8, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson County Health Department reports 223 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 198 of the total confirmed cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the KDHE. There are three current hospitalizations and one death.

- Cases identified Saturday, September 5
 - Positive case #215 is a symptomatic female in her 20s with unknown exposure.
 - Positive case #216 is a symptomatic male in his 20s with known family exposure.
 - Positive case #217 is an asymptomatic male in his 60s with unknown exposure.
- Cases identified Monday, September 7
 - Positive case #218 is an asymptomatic female in her 80s with unknown exposure.
 - Positive case #219 is a symptomatic female in her 20s with known family exposure.
- Cases identified Tuesday, September 8
 - Positive case #220 is a symptomatic female in her 60s with known family exposure.
 - Positive case #221 is a symptomatic male in his 80s with unknown exposure and is hospitalized.
 - Positive case #222 is a symptomatic 17-year-old male with unknown exposure.
 - Positive case #223 is an asymptomatic female in her 70s with known exposure.

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
- August 10 to August 23: 8.62% positive rate
- August 24 to September 6: 14.67% positive rate
 - This number is likely to change as more test results for this time period 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:

- Traveled to Aruba on or after August 27.
- Attended/traveled to a mass gathering event (out-of-state) of 500 people or greater on or after August 11.
- Traveled on a cruise ship or river cruise.
- Traveled July 14 to August 27 to countries with a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice with Restrictions on Entry into the United States, including China, Iran, European Schengen area, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and Brazil.

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 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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