



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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September 14, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson County Health Department reports 247 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 221 of the total confirmed cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the KDHE. There are two current hospitalizations and one death.

- Cases identified Saturday, September 12
 - Positive case #243 is an asymptomatic female in her 80s with known exposure.
 - Positive case #244 is a symptomatic 18-year-old male with known exposure to a local college team outbreak.
- Cases identified Monday, September 14
 - Positive case #245 is a symptomatic male in his 60s with unknown exposure at this time and is hospitalized.
 - Positive case #246 is a symptomatic 7-year-old male with known exposure (family of 213, 247).
 - Positive case #247 is a symptomatic 3-year-old male with known exposure (family of 213, 246).

McPherson County Health Department is working closely with key partners to evaluate the 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. Previously, MCHD would remove those being tested for preoperational reasons from the total number of those tested to better gauge the number of ill patients that were positive for COVID-19. Starting September 11, MCHD will no longer remove preoperational tests from the number reported to represent community spread data more accurately. The data reported below are not the only data that influences the recommendation to move to more or less restriction. 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 has been updated to reflect the above-mentioned changes includes:

Date	# of New Positives Reported to MCHD	# of Tested	% Positive	% Positivity without Pre-Ops
6/19 to 7/12	22	449	4.89%	5.47%
7/13 to 7/26	30	312	9.61%	11.49%
7/27 to 8/9	32	311	10.28%	12.64%
8/10 to 8/23	20	282	7.09%	8.62%
8/24 to 9/6	38	319*	11.91%*	14.50%*

*Numbers may change as more results are reported to MCHD from this time period.

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 **October 12th, 2020**. This decision extends Phase 3 by two incubation periods and is based off the increasing trend in incidence rate.

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 where individuals did not 6-foot distance and wear masks on or after August 11.
- Traveled to Aruba August 27 to September 10.
- 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 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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