



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

From: Shalei Shea, RN BSN
 McPherson County Health Department Director and McPherson County Health Officer

September 21, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson County Health Department reports 256 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 247 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 19
 - Positive case #253 is a symptomatic male in his 80s with known exposure to a local assisted living facility outbreak.
 - Positive case #254 is a symptomatic female in her 20s with known exposure to a local assisted living facility outbreak.
 - Positive case #255 is an asymptomatic male in his 40s with unknown exposure at this time.
- Cases identified Monday, September 21
 - Positive case #256 is a symptomatic 18-year-old female with known exposure to a local assisted living facility outbreak.

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." Each week a Risk Assessment will be completed on each district and two private schools in the County. Those can also be found on mcpersoncountyks.us. 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	321	11.83%	14.39%
9/7 to 9/20	38	417*	9.11%*	10.16%*

*Numbers may fluctuate as more results are reported to MCHD.

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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