



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

September 25, 2020

**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY**

McPherson County Health Department reports 265 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 249 of the total confirmed cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the KDHE. There are four current hospitalizations and one death.

- Positive case #264 is a symptomatic female in her 30s with known exposure related to a local nursing home.
- Positive case #265 is a symptomatic male in his 90s with known exposure related to a local assisted living facility.

Updated case data includes:

- Asymptomatic cases: 27
- Cases with unknown exposure: 104
- Cases 60 years old and above: 63
- Cases 50-59 years old: 31
- Cases 40-49 years old: 35
- Cases 30-39 years old: 33
- Cases 18-29 years old: 77
- Cases under 18 years old: 26
- Female cases: 143
- Male cases: 122
- Hospitalized cases (may not represent current hospitalizations): 22
- Ventilated cases (may not represent current ventilated cases): 4
- Deaths: 1

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](http://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](http://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	419	9.06%	10.10%

\*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](http://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](http://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.

###