



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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 McPherson County Health Department Director and McPherson County Health Officer

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

McPherson County Health Department reports 522 total cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 346 of the total cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the KDHE or have passed away. There are two current hospitalizations and seven deaths.

McPherson County has seen a dramatic increase in new COVID-19 cases. Please let our data solidify the need to wear masks, avoid large gatherings, stay home when sick, and practice good hand hygiene. The cold season is upon us and will not make our jobs any easier when trying to differentiate between COVID-19 and other ailments, like the common cold or influenza. Please continue to seek medical care and work with your medical professional. Our increase in cases also triggers the alarm for an increase in community spread. Outbreaks across the state can be identified on the KDHE COVID-19 website, including McPherson County outbreaks. McPherson County Health Department is working closely with KDHE to help investigate and contact trace COVID-19 cases. Please be aware that if you or someone you know has been tested, they may receive a call from KDHE Epidemiologists as they help us manage our case load. If you are not sure if it is a real call, ask for their callback number and then please call McPherson County Health Department and we can confirm that it is a legitimate investigator.

Updated case data includes:

- **New cases since last public release: 67**
- Asymptomatic: 30
- Cases with unknown exposure: 239
- Cases 60 years old and above: 147
- Cases 50-59 years old: 65
- Cases 40-49 years old: 76
- Cases 30-39 years old: 63
- Cases 18-29 years old: 115
- Cases under 18 years old: 56
- Female cases: 280
- Male cases: 242
- Hospitalized cases (may not represent current hospitalizations): 32
- Ventilated cases (may not represent current ventilated cases): 5
- Deaths: 7

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 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%
9/21 to 10/4	21	394	5.32%	6.12%
10/5 to 10/18	62	446	13.9%	N/A
10/19 to 11/1	184	561	32.79%	N/A

\*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 [mcpersoncouthyks.us](http://mcpersoncouthyks.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 **November 9th, 2020**. This decision extends Phase 3 by two incubation periods and is based off the 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:

- Traveled to or from North Dakota on or after October 21
- Traveled to or from the country of Andorra on or after October 21
- 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.
- Traveled on a cruise ship or river cruise.

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.

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