



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

McPherson County Health Department reports 2023 total cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 1187 of the total cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the KDHE or have passed away. There are 16 current hospitalizations and 19 deaths (eleventh death has pending medical records).

McPherson County Health Department and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are experiencing a delay in response time to begin investigations and contact tracing. 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. While waiting on notification from our team or KDHE, please continue your isolation and notify the people that have been within 6 feet of you for 10 minutes or longer, including those that meet that criteria in the 48 hours prior to your symptom onset. If you are not symptomatic, please include close contacts 48 hours prior to your positive test date.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated their quarantine recommendation in response to local circumstance and resources. The KDHE is supporting these recommendations but leaving it up to each Kansas County to decide what method they implement. McPherson County Health Department will be implementing the following protocols regarding quarantine and isolation for COVID-19:

- Someone diagnosed with COVID-19 are required to isolate for 10 days from symptom onset and may be released from isolation when they have isolated for 10 days AND have had significant symptom improvement AND have been 72 hours fever-free without fever reducing medication.
- Someone diagnosed with COVID-19 but are not having any symptoms are required to isolate for 10 days from their COVID-19 test date and may be released from isolation after they have been isolated for 10 days and have not developed symptoms.
- Someone identified as a close contact (within 6 feet for 10 minutes or longer) of a positive COVID-19 case are required to quarantine for 10 days from last exposure to the positive case.
  - If the close contact becomes symptomatic during quarantine, they should seek testing.
  - If the close contact does not become symptomatic by day 7 of their quarantine, they may seek PCR testing (not antigen testing) if they wish. If their result comes back before their 10<sup>th</sup> day of quarantine and it is negative, they may be released at that time. If their test comes back positive, they must begin their 10-day isolation as an asymptomatic case from their test date (*see second bullet above*).
  - If the close contact does not have symptoms and does not want to test or cannot find a location to get a PCR test, they are required to quarantine for 10 days.
  - If the close contact is a long-term care or assisted living resident, or an inmate at a correctional facility, they are required by KDHE to remain in quarantine for 14 days because of their high-risk living setting.

Updated case data includes:

- **New cases since last public release: 74**
  - Asymptomatic: 52
  - Cases with unknown exposure: 912
  - Cases 60 years old and above: 629
  - Cases 50-59 years old: 285
  - Cases 40-49 years old: 256
  - Cases 30-39 years old: 254
  - Cases 18-29 years old: 407
  - Cases under 18 years old: 192
  - Female cases: 1049
  - Male cases: 974
  - Hospitalized cases (may not represent current hospitalizations): 77
    - There was a large number of hospitalizations reported to MCHD but does not totally reflect those currently hospitalized.
  - Ventilated cases (may not represent current ventilated cases): 7
  - Deaths: 19 (1 pending)
    - Male cases age: 86, 90, 96, 78, 90, 81, 66, 39, 91, 92, 52, 80, 30, 72, 82, 88
    - Female cases age: 92, 89, 94

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."

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	575	32.00%	N/A
11/2 to 11/15	521	1227	42.46%	N/A
11/16 to 11/29	491	918	53.48%	N/A
11/30 to 12/13	493	724	68.09%	N/A

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

McPherson County is in Phase 2 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 2 at least until **January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

KDHE and MCHD continue to mandate a 10-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
- Traveled on a cruise ship or river cruise

McPherson County residents are encouraged to help slow the spread of coronavirus by:

- Following Phase 2 of Reopening Kansas and McPherson County ([mcpersoncountyks.us](http://mcpersoncountyks.us)).
- Maintaining social distancing.
- Avoiding gatherings in groups greater than 15-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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