

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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March 23, 2021

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

As of this release, McPherson County is vaccinating Phase 3 and 4, and anyone included previously. Individuals in these categories can contact their primary care provider to be vaccinated or call MCHD to schedule at 620-241-1753.

- Individuals aged 16-64 (16-17 year old's can only receive Pfizer vaccine) with the following medical risks: cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, down syndrome, heart conditions, organ transplant recipients, diabetes mellitus, sickle cell disease, pregnant patients (should discuss with provider), asthma, cerebrovascular disease, immunocompromised state, neurologic conditions, liver disease, pulmonary fibrosis, thalassemia, and obesity.
- Critical manufacturing workers that perform indoors
- Utility workers
- Social service and government workers
- Logistics workers, such as truck transportation and couriers
- Shelter, housing and construction workers
- Finance workers
- Information technology and communications workers

School Guidance: KDHE has adopted new CDC guidelines regarding masking and distancing in schools.

- Universal and correct use of masks should still be in place.
- In elementary schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart.
- In middle and high schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart unless there is high community transmission.
- If an outbreak occurs in any school setting, students should be 6 feet apart until the outbreak is contained.
- However, 6 feet distance must continue to be maintained in the following settings:
  - Between adults (teachers and staff) and between adults and students. Studies have found that transmission between staff is more common than transmission between students in schools.
  - When masks cannot be worn, such as eating.
  - During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, sports, or exercise. These activities should be moved outdoors or to large, well-ventilated space when possible.
  - In common areas like school lobbies and auditoriums.

Isolation and Quarantine:

- If you are exposed to someone with suspect or confirmed COVID-19, you are not required to quarantine if you meet ALL of the following points:
  - If you have been fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine for at least 2 weeks (2 weeks after the second dose in 2-dose series like Moderna and Pfizer, or 2 weeks after the first dose in a single-dose vaccine like Johnson & Johnson)
  - If you are within 6 months of receiving your last dose in the vaccine series
  - If you are not having any symptoms since the identified COVID-19 exposure
- If you do not meet ALL of the above points, you should follow normal quarantine guidance, which includes a 10-day quarantine from date of exposure.
- If you meet ALL of the above points but then become symptomatic, you should immediately isolate and seek PCR or antigen COVID-19 testing.
- Vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings/long term care facilities are exempt from this fully vaccinated exemption due to unknown vaccine effectiveness in this population, the higher risk of severe disease and death, and challenges with distancing in these settings.

McPherson County Health Department (MCHD) recommends McPherson County practice Phase 3 Reopening Plans beginning February 10, 2021 and will be reviewed April 6, 2021. Reopening plan guidance is shifting to include case and recovery rates and population vaccination status. Phase 3 limits gatherings to 45 individuals when 6-foot distance is not maintained. More information on Phase 3 plans can be found on the McPherson County website, [mcpersoncountyks.us](http://mcpersoncountyks.us).

KDHE and MCHD continue to mandate a 10-day quarantine for Kansans if you have done any of the following:

- Traveled on or after March 12 to New Jersey or New York
- Traveled on or after March 12 to State of Palestine or Estonia.
- Traveled on or after February 26 to the countries of Mayotte, Czechia, San Marino, Montenegro, or Seychelles.
- 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.

COVID-19 data in McPherson County can be found on the next page of this release.

March 23, 2021

Total cases	3231
New cases since last release	20
Total recoveries	3125
Total deaths	85
Asymptomatic	69
Unknown exposure	1531
Female cases	1691
Male cases	1540
Current hospitalizations	1
Total hospitalizations	129
Total ventilated cases	21
Cases 60+ years old	985
Cases 50-59 years old	444
Cases 40-49 years old	413
Cases 30-39 years old	411
Cases 18-29 years old	648
Cases under 18 years old	330

Deaths by Age	Male	Female
90+	10	11
80-89	19	11
70-79	14	3
60-69	8	4
50-59	1	0
40-49	2	0
30-39	2	0

<b>Total COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Received at MCHD since 12/21/20</b>	8968
<b>Doses Scheduled/Administered at MCHD</b>	2980
<b>Doses Transferred to Providers from MCHD</b>	5988

DATE	# OF NEW POSITIVE REPORTED TO MCHD	# OF TESTED	% POSITIVE
6/19/20 TO 7/12/20	22	449	4.89
7/16/20 TO 7/26/20	30	312	9.61
7/27/20 TO 8/9/20	32	311	10.28
8/10/20 TO 8/23/20	20	282	7.09
8/24/20 TO 9/6/20	38	321	11.83
9/7/20 TO 9/20/20	38	419	9.06
9/21/20 TO 10/4/20	21	394	5.32
10/5/20 TO 10/18/20	62	446	13.9
10/19/20 TO 11/1/20	184	575	32.0
11/2/20 TO 11/15/20	521	1227	42.46
11/16/20 TO 11/29/20	491	918	53.48
11/30/20 TO 12/13/20	493	730	67.53
12/14/20 TO 12/27/20	341	832	40.98
12/28/20 TO 1/10/21	300	848	35.37
1/11/21 TO 1/24/21	245	598	40.96
1/25/21 TO 2/7/21	152	465	32.68
2/8/21 TO 2/21/21	76	276	27.43
2/22/21 TO 3/7/21	51	255	20.0
3/8/21 TO 3/21/21	46	463	9.93