

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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McPherson County Health Department Director and McPherson County Health Officer

April 15, 2021

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

COVID-19 data in McPherson County can be found on the home page of mcpersoncountyks.us, under "McPherson County COVID-19 Dashboard." This data will continue to be updated Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. Public releases will move to once a week on Thursdays and more frequently if needed.

According to the CDC, as of April 12, 6.85 million doses of Johnson and Johnson (also known as J&J or Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the United States. J&J has been placed on a temporary pause following 6 identified cases of individuals that had received the vaccine and then developed a rare type of blood clot. Those who have received J&J vaccine that develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their healthcare provider. The CDC, FDA, and KDHE will continue to meet to discuss steps moving forward. McPherson County providers that have J&J vaccine on hand have been asked to pause further administration of the vaccine.

On April 14, MCHD was notified of the first variant detection in a McPherson County resident. Today, MCHD was notified of the second variant detected. This specific variant is known as the UK (United Kingdom) variant. Quarantine and isolation procedures do not change based on variant identification. No further information on the patients will be released at this time.

After considering McPherson County's population vaccinated rate, current trends with COVID-19 infection locally, statewide and nationally, and consulting with local healthcare partners, MCHD will recommend we move to a modified reopening plan that includes the following:

- 100-person gathering limit when 6-foot distancing is not maintained
- Continued mask usage when all surrounding individuals have not been fully vaccinated for at least 2 weeks, especially in settings where 6-foot distancing is not maintained or there is poor ventilation
- Frequent hand hygiene practices and staying home when sick

MCHD recommends McPherson County practice the above recommendations beginning April 5, 2021 and this will be reviewed again April 19, 2021.

McPherson County is vaccinating anyone 16 years old and above for COVID-19. You may call MCHD at 620-241-1753, your local healthcare provider, or pharmacy for an appointment. You may also search for locations using vaccinefinder.org. (16 and 17 year old individuals may only receive Pfizer vaccine at this time).

- As of April 14, 2021, according to the Kansas Immunization Registry, KSWebIZ, 12,962 McPherson County residents have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The majority have received Moderna (8,995), followed by Pfizer (3,440) and Johnson and Johnson/Janssen (527).

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

- Traveled on or after April 8 to Connecticut or Pennsylvania, Andorra, Bermuda, Curacao, Poland, Serbia or Uruguay.
- Traveled on or after March 26 to Delaware, Michigan, Rhode Island, Hungary or Jordan.
- 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 country of San Marino.
- 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.