

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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McPherson County Health Department Director and McPherson County Health Officer

September 23, 2021

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

During the first three weeks of August, August 1 to August 21, 2021, 172 new cases were identified. Between September 1 and September 21, 2021, 302 new cases were identified. This is a continuing alarming trend increase. Hospitalization frequency has also increased in comparison to previous months. It is pertinent those who are eligible get vaccinated, individuals stay home when sick and individuals take necessary precautions when gathering. McPherson County Health Department (MCHD) recommends all individuals 2 years old and above mask in indoor settings when 6 foot distance cannot be maintained while community transmission is high.

MCHD has identified vaccine breakthrough cases. A vaccine breakthrough case is defined as the detection of COVID-19 via antigen or PCR testing from a person that is at least 14 days past completing all recommended doses of a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. McPherson County vaccine breakthrough case data can be found on the McPherson County COVID-19 Dashboard.

As of this release, there are 25 confirmed variant cases out of 35 tested specimens. At this time, these identified variants do not require additional quarantine or isolation precautions outside of what is already done for non-variant cases. More information regarding COVID-19 variants can be found at <https://www.who.int/.../tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/>.

- Variant B.1.1.7 (Alpha): 6
- Variant B.1.617.2 (Delta): 14
- Variant AY.3 (Delta): 3
- Variant AY.4 (Delta): 2

COVID-19 vaccine booster doses are being evaluated. MCHD staff are monitoring the process and will make information available as soon as information becomes available. Individuals who have completed the series of Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and meet the following the criteria are eligible for a third additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine:

- Active treatment for solid tumor or hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge, Wiskott-Aldrich syndromes)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., greater than or equal to 20mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, TNF blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory

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](https://vaccinefinder.org). McPherson County is vaccinating anyone 12 years old and above.

- As of September 21, 2021, according to the Kansas Immunization Registry, KSWebIZ, 19,219 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to McPherson County residents. The majority of doses administered have been Moderna (11,779), followed by Pfizer (6,656) and Johnson and Johnson/Janssen (784).
- As of September 21, 2021, according to the CDC COVID Data Tracker (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>), 46.3% of McPherson County's population has been fully vaccinated. 54.2% of the population 12 years old and above are vaccinated, 57% of the population 18 years old and above are vaccinated, and 83.3% of the population 65 years old and above are vaccinated. More information can be found on their website.



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KDHE and MCHD continue to mandate a 10-day quarantine for Kansans. **This quarantine does not apply if you have been fully vaccinated for at least 2 weeks and are asymptomatic.** The travel and exposure related quarantine list can be found at <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/175/Travel-Exposure-Related-Isolation-Quaran>.

COVID-19 data in McPherson County can be found on the home page of [mcpersoncountyks.us](http://mcpersoncountyks.us), under "McPherson County COVID-19 Dashboard." This data will continue to be updated Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. Written releases like this one will be posted once a week on Thursdays, unless needed otherwise.