



McPherson County Health Department  
1001 N. Main St.  
McPherson, KS 67460  
(620)241-1753  
Fax (620)241-1756

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

From: Shalei Shea, RN BSN  
McPherson County Health Department Director and McPherson County Health Officer

March 19, 2020 at 8:00 am

As of 8:00 am, McPherson County **does not** have any positive cases of COVID-19.

It is our goal as the McPherson County Health Department to provide public notification of any positive COVID-19 cases in coordination with State and Local Health Officials. McPherson County Health Department will issue updates on current positive count standings for McPherson County.

The current recommendations of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the State of Kansas through Executive Order No. 20-04, and the McPherson County Health Department is to limit social gatherings to under **50-persons**.

- Should events under the **50-person** threshold take place, social distancing should be practiced.
  - Social distancing includes placing a 6-foot distance between persons attending as much as possible. If said 6-foot distance cannot be exercised, it should last no longer than 10 minutes.
  - Restaurants and bars should preserve social distancing of 6 feet between tables, booths, bar stools, and ordering counters and cease self-service of unpackaged food, such as salad bars or buffets. We also encourage services to occur through delivery, carry-out or drive-thru when possible.
- Exemptions can be found at [govstatus.egov.com/coronavirus](http://govstatus.egov.com/coronavirus) or by calling McPherson County Health Department at (620)241-1753.

Personal judgement should be exercised in limiting all non-essential social gatherings.

On March 18, 2020, the KDHE is now **mandating** 14-day home quarantine for Kansans who have:

- Traveled to a state with known widespread community transmission (currently California, **Florida**, New York and Washington state) on or after March 15.
- Visited Eagle, Summit, Pitkin and Gunnison counties in Colorado in the week prior to March 15 or after.
- Traveled on a cruise ship or river cruise on or after March 15.
- Traveled internationally on or after March 15.
- Received notification from public health officials that you are a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case.

There is no need for returning travelers to notify KDHE about their return. McPherson County residents may notify McPherson County Health Department of their return for guidance or questions about home quarantine.

Testing for COVID-19 is evaluated by healthcare providers and KDHE. At this time, testing can only be performed on symptomatic people who have identifiable risk factors, such as exposure and travel history. People who are currently being tested for COVID-19 should remain in home isolation until results are available. If the test results are negative, isolation is no longer required. If test results are positive, the person must remain in isolation until released by public health.

On March 17, 2020, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announced all Kansas kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade public and private school buildings close through the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.

It is the recommendation of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and McPherson County Health Department that the public does not purchase household items or food products in large quantities.

We also highly encourage McPherson County residents to rely on health authorities to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information on COVID-19.

McPherson County community partners are meeting frequently, often multiple times a day, with State Health and Emergency Management Officials to ensure we are protecting the public as much as possible.

Please continue to practice good hygiene with frequent hand washing, covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, and limiting physical contact such as handshaking. Stay home if you feel ill and call your provider to discuss your symptoms. If you do not have a provider, please call your local hospital for instruction.

For more information that is frequently updated, visit: [kdheks.gov](http://kdheks.gov) or [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov).

###