

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 11:25 am

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 3:45 pm

### **MCPHERSON COUNTY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESPONSE TO REOPENING**

Effective May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 12:01 am, the McPherson County Local Health Officer will be recommending residents of McPherson County follow the guidelines listed below, some of which are set forth in Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas and other relevant national and state-level guidance.

Effective May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the McPherson County Board of Health (Board of County Commissioners) made a motion that no county restrictions will go into effect but recommend individuals and businesses follow the guidelines set forth in this document and any other document released by McPherson County Health Department. These guidelines will not be enforced by law.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) travel-related quarantine mandate is still in effect and is mandated by McPherson County Health Department as well. An updated travel-related quarantine list can be found within the latest Case Update for McPherson County on [mcpersoncountyks.us](http://mcpersoncountyks.us) or by checking the KDHE webpage at [coronavirus.kdheks.gov](http://coronavirus.kdheks.gov).

Disease spread, hospitalization rates, death rates and the ability to contact trace will be evaluated before recommending McPherson County moves to the next phase. Please be aware if local hospitals begin to be overwhelmed with COVID-19 related patients, the Local Health Officer will implement restrictive orders to support our healthcare infrastructure.

Questions can be submitted to McPherson County Health Department at 620-241-1753 or [machd@mcpersoncountyks.us](mailto:machd@mcpersoncountyks.us).

#### **Phase 2: Began May 22, 2020**

- **Gatherings:** no more than 15 individuals in a mass gathering where 6-foot social distance cannot be maintained between the individuals
  - If an event larger than the mass gathering restriction recommendation occurs, we ask that a plan to keep the event safe be submitted to McPherson County Health Department via email at [machd@mcpersoncountyks.us](mailto:machd@mcpersoncountyks.us) or via phone at 620-241-1753
- **Individuals:**
  - Masks are strongly encouraged in public settings
  - Maintain 6-foot social distance in both indoor and outdoor settings
  - High-risk individuals like those with underlying medical conditions should continue to stay home except for essential needs

- Employers:
  - Telework is encouraged when possible
  - Employees exhibiting illness should be required to stay home and encouraged to seek medical care as necessary
  - Avoid gatherings greater than 15 where social distancing protocols cannot be maintained and continue to maintain 6 feet of distance between workstations as employees are phased in
- Travel:
  - Minimize or avoid travel if it isn't for medical, family, or business-related needs
  - KDHE travel-related quarantine mandates are still in effect for high-risk areas
- Educational Facilities:
  - K-12 facilities should continue to follow the guidelines of the Continuous Learning Plan developed by the Kansas State Department of Education
  - Higher education facilities should remain closed for in-person learning or events involving groups of more than 15 individuals
  - Childcare facilities can continue operations pursuant to state and local regulations
- Activities and Venues:
  - The following activities and venues listed should not open during this phase:
    - Outdoor and indoor large entertainment venues with capacity of 500 or more
    - Fairs, festivals, carnivals and parades where people gather outside of their vehicles
    - Summer camps that are not part of a licensed childcare facility
    - Swimming pools that are not backyard pools or pools used for physical therapy and first responder training
    - Senior Centers
    - Long-term care and healthcare facilities should follow the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and any other relevant licensing entities.
  - Activities and venues not mentioned above can safely reopen if they:
    - Maintain 6 feet of distance between all individuals and groups that do not live together in the same residence
    - Follow cleaning and public health practices and comply with any additional sector specific guidance
    - Avoid groups larger than 15 where distance cannot be maintained (greater than 15 individuals can occupy a facility if capacity allows for individuals to maintain social distance of 6 feet)
  - Guidelines for activities and venues such as contact and non-contact sports, outdoor sports courts, playgrounds, outdoor pools, splash pads, museums, farmers markets, community gardens, outdoor restrooms, senior centers, gyms, fitness centers, indoor and outdoor pools, locker rooms/showers, meeting rooms, and golf, can be found on the Kansas Recreation and Park Association (KRPA) website (<https://krpa.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/2020/KRPA%20Support%20Guidelines%205.21.20.pdf>). Recommendations given by McPherson County Health Department will align with the KRPA guidelines.
  - Businesses, activities and venues shall follow the mandates from their licensor

### **Phase 3: Begins no earlier than June 8, 2020**

- **Gatherings:** no more than 45 individuals in a mass gathering where 6-foot social distance cannot be maintained between the individuals
  - If an event larger than the mass gathering restriction recommendation occurs, we ask that a plan to keep the event safe be submitted to McPherson County Health Department via email at [machd@mcphersoncountyks.us](mailto:machd@mcphersoncountyks.us) or via phone at 620-241-1753
- **Individuals:**
  - Masks are strongly encouraged in settings where 6-foot distance cannot be maintained
  - Adhere to personal hygiene guidelines and remain home if ill
  - High-risk individuals with underlying medical conditions may resume public interactions but should practice social distancing and minimize exposure to situations where precautionary measures may be difficult
- **Employers:**
  - May begin reducing telework and start bringing employees back to work in office settings
  - Employees exhibiting illness should be required to stay home and encouraged to seek medical care as necessary
  - Avoid gatherings greater than 45 where social distancing protocols cannot be maintained and continue to maintain 6 feet of distance between workstations as employees are phased in
- **Travel:**
  - Non-essential travel may resume
  - KDHE travel-related quarantine mandates are still in effect for high-risk areas
- **Educational Facilities:**
  - K-12 facilities should continue to follow the guidelines of the Continuous Learning Plan developed by the Kansas Department of Education
  - Higher education facilities should remain closed for in person learning or events involving groups of more than 45 individuals
  - Childcare facilities can continue operations pursuant to state and local regulations
- **Activities and Venues:**
  - All activities and venues can safely reopen if they:
    - Maintain 6 feet of distance between all individuals and groups that do not live together in the same residence
    - Follow cleaning and public health practices and comply with any additional sector specific guidance
    - Avoid groups larger than 45 where distance cannot be maintained (greater than 45 individuals can occupy a facility if capacity allows for individuals to maintain social distance of 6 feet)
  - Long-term care and healthcare facilities should follow the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and any other relevant licensing entities.

- Guidelines for activities and venues such as contact and non-contact sports, outdoor sports courts, playgrounds, outdoor pools, splash pads, museums, farmers markets, community gardens, outdoor restrooms, senior centers, gyms, fitness centers, indoor and outdoor pools, locker rooms/showers, meeting rooms, and golf, can be found on the Kansas Recreation and Park Association (KRPA) website (<https://krpa.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/2020/KRPA%20Support%20Guidelines%205.21.20.pdf>). Recommendations given by McPherson County Health Department will align with the KRPA guidelines.
- Businesses, activities and venues shall follow the mandates from their licensor/sector

**Phase Out: Begins no earlier than June 29, 2020**

- Gatherings: maintain social distance where applicable
- Individuals: adhere to personal hygiene guidelines and remain home if ill
- Employers: follow any sector specific guidelines that may be released
- Travel: unrestricted
- Educational Facilities: unrestricted unless sector specific guidelines are released
- Activities and Venues: unrestricted
  - Long-term care and healthcare facilities should follow the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and any other relevant licensing entities.
  - Guidelines for activities and venues such as contact and non-contact sports, outdoor sports courts, playgrounds, outdoor pools, splash pads, museums, farmers markets, community gardens, outdoor restrooms, senior centers, gyms, fitness centers, indoor and outdoor pools, locker rooms/showers, meeting rooms, and golf, can be found on the Kansas Recreation and Park Association (KRPA) website (<https://krpa.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/2020/KRPA%20Support%20Guidelines%205.21.20.pdf>). Recommendations given by McPherson County Health Department will align with the KRPA guidelines.
  - Businesses, activities and venues shall follow the mandates from their licensor