

## McPherson County Public/Private Schools Gating Criteria

Procedures and protocols surrounding COVID-19 are very fluid, meaning the need for flexibility is at an all-time high. This guidance document is to be used in conjunction with communication between McPherson County Health Department (MCHD), McPherson County Public and Private Schools, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Recommendations from MCHD may differ slightly from this model on a case-by-case basis as more information and data is collected.

### Positive Students or Staff

- Any time MCHD and/or the school district feel that an outbreak may ensue because of the exposure caused by a positive case, MCHD may recommend the school move to more restrictive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- There will not be a set number of positive cases within a school building to trigger a movement to more restrictive measures, like moving to complete remote learning (online). Instead, this will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For instance, 5 positives from an elementary classroom may be related to the same initial exposure in one school, but 5 positives from a middle school may have no shared classrooms or other known exposures and may cause a trigger to move to remote learning.
- Typically, middle school and high school students are more active throughout their school buildings because they don't have only one assigned classroom. In typical elementary school settings, students remain in one classroom with the same peers each day. Therefore, it is more likely for the middle school or high school buildings to move to remote learning because of the potential for widespread exposure.

Gating Criteria	MCHD Assessment	School Considerations*
Previous 14 days show $\leq 5\%$ positive tests and steady or decreasing new cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued communication between schools and MCHD</li> <li>• Continued disease investigation with MCHD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hybrid learning models, offering both in-person and remote learning options to students</li> <li>• In-person learning is consistent with safe-opening protocols</li> <li>• In-person activities and sports*** are consistent with local guidelines, such as 6' distancing, mask wearing, and capacity limits</li> </ul>
Previous 14 days show $\leq 10\%$ positive tests and steady or decreasing new cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued communication between schools and MCHD</li> <li>• Completion of <math>\leq 10\%</math> <i>Positive Tests Assessment</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hybrid learning models, offering both in-person and remote learning options to students</li> <li>• In-person learning is consistent with safe-opening protocols</li> <li>• In-person activities and sports*** are consistent with local guidelines, such as 6' distancing, mask wearing, and capacity limits</li> </ul>
Previous 14 days show $\leq 15\%$ positive tests and steady or decreasing new cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued communication between schools and MCHD</li> <li>• Completion of <math>\leq 15\%</math> <i>Positive Tests Assessment</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging remote learning, but hybrid learning models, offering both in-person and remote learning options to students, are acceptable</li> <li>• Students or staff that are high-risk** should move to remote learning if they haven't already</li> <li>• In-person learning is consistent with safe-opening protocols</li> <li>• In-person activities and sports*** are discouraged, but if occurring, are consistent with local guidelines, such as 6' distancing, mask wearing, and capacity limits</li> </ul>
Previous 14 days show $>15\%$ and increasing new cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued communication between schools and MCHD</li> <li>• Completion of <math>&gt;15\%</math> <i>Positive Tests Assessment</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote learning only may be recommended based on outcome of <i>Assessment</i></li> <li>• Students or staff that are high-risk** should move to remote learning if they haven't already</li> <li>• In-person activities and sports*** may not be recommended based on outcome of <i>Assessment</i></li> </ul>

\*School considerations may vary upon a number of factors, including but not limited to how many active cases are students or school staff and how many students or school staff are in quarantine.

\*\*High-risk individuals include those 65 years old and above, or those with cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), immunocompromised state (weakened immune system), obesity, serious heart conditions like heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies, sick cell disease, or type 2 diabetes mellitus (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>).

\*\*\*Activities and sports should follow the guidelines from KSHSAA, from KSDE in *Navigating Change*, and from local health officials.