



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

October 21, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson County Health Department reports 355 total cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County. 316 of the total cases have now met recovery guidelines set forth by the KDHE or have passed away. There are four current hospitalizations and six deaths. The latest death has been confirmed with medical records and we send our deepest sympathy to the family. MCHD also obtained medical records on two other previous deaths.

Updated case data includes:

- **New cases since last public release: 12**
- Asymptomatic: 28
- Cases with unknown exposure: 153
- Cases 60 years old and above: 97
- Cases 50-59 years old: 41
- Cases 40-49 years old: 49
- Cases 30-39 years old: 42
- Cases 18-29 years old: 90
- Cases under 18 years old: 36
- Female cases: 190
- Male cases: 165
- Hospitalized cases (may not represent current hospitalizations): 31
- Ventilated cases (may not represent current ventilated cases): 5
- Deaths: 6

McPherson County Health Department is working closely with key partners to evaluate the school year. It is our goal to continue to keep the community informed. The data reported below are not the only data that influences the recommendation to move to more or less restriction. Criteria that will influence the recommendation to move schools to more or less restrictive measures can be found on mcpersoncountyks.us on the home page, under "COVID-19: Reopening McPherson County." Each week a Risk Assessment will be completed on each district and two private schools in the County. Those can also be found on mcpersoncountyks.us. Data that has been updated to reflect the above-mentioned changes includes:

Date	# of New Positives Reported to MCHD	# of Tested	% Positive	% Positivity without Pre-Ops
6/19 to 7/12	22	449	4.89%	5.47%
7/13 to 7/26	30	312	9.61%	11.49%
7/27 to 8/9	32	311	10.28%	12.64%
8/10 to 8/23	20	282	7.09%	8.62%
8/24 to 9/6	38	321	11.83%	14.39%
9/7 to 9/20	38	419	9.06%	10.10%
9/21 to 10/4	21	394	5.32%	6.12%
10/5 to 10/18	62	446	13.9%	N/A

*Numbers may fluctuate as more results are reported to MCHD.

McPherson County is in Phase 3 of Reopening Kansas. Updated documents can be found on mcpersoncountyks.us on the home page, under "COVID-19: Reopening McPherson County." McPherson County Health Department recommends McPherson County remains in Phase 3 at least until **November 9th, 2020**. This decision extends Phase 3 by two incubation periods and is based off the trend in incidence rate.

KDHE and MCHD continue to mandate a 14-day home quarantine for Kansans if you have done any of the following:

- 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.

McPherson County residents are encouraged to help slow the spread of coronavirus by:

- Following Phase 3 of Reopening Kansas and McPherson County (mcpersoncountyks.us).
- Maintaining social distancing.
- Avoiding gatherings in groups greater than 45-persons.

- Wearing cloth face coverings or homemade masks when in public.
- Practicing cough etiquette and washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

####