

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

During November 2021, McPherson County identified 443 cases of COVID-19 in which 9 of them were new hospitalizations. In comparison, during November 2020 there were 1034 cases identified which 35 of them were new hospitalizations. As of this release, so far in December 2021 there have been 47 cases identified and 3 new hospitalizations.

It is pertinent those who are eligible get vaccinated, individuals stay home when sick and individuals take necessary precautions when gathering. Be proactive and protect yourself from influenza by getting your flu shot as well. 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.

COVID-19 Pfizer vaccination for the age group 5-11 has been authorized. The booster dose of Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for all 18 years of age and above. You may call MCHD at 620-241-1753, your healthcare provider, or pharmacy for an appointment.

As of this release, there are 61 confirmed variant cases out of 74 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): 27
- Variant AY.2 (Delta): 11
- Variant AY.3 (Delta): 13
- Variant AY.4 (Delta): 4

As of December 2, 2021, according to the CDC COVID Data Tracker (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>), 51.9% of McPherson County's population has been fully vaccinated. 60.6% of the population 12 years old and above are vaccinated, 63.4% of the population 18 years old and above are vaccinated, and 86.2% of the population 65 years old and above are vaccinated. More information can be found on their website.

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>.

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.

COVID-19 data in McPherson County can be found on the home page of 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.