

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN MCPHERSON COUNTY**

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Information Update**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has released updated information regarding COVID-19 Vaccine quarantine and practices after the Centers of Disease and Prevention (CDC) released similar recommendations. McPherson County Health Department will also adopt this guidance for McPherson County.

#### Isolation and Quarantine:

- If you are exposed to someone with suspect or confirmed COVID-19, you are not required to quarantine if you meet ALL of the following points:
  - If you have been fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine for at least 2 weeks (2 weeks after the second dose in 2-dose series like Moderna and Pfizer, or 2 weeks after the first dose in a single-dose vaccine like Johnson & Johnson)
  - If you are within 6 months of receiving your last dose in the vaccine series
  - If you are not having any symptoms since the identified COVID-19 exposure
- If you do not meet ALL of the above points, you should follow normal quarantine guidance, which includes a 10-day quarantine from date of exposure.
- If you meet ALL of the above points but then become symptomatic, you should immediately isolate and seek PCR or antigen COVID-19 testing.
- Vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings/long term care facilities are exempt from this fully vaccinated exemption due to unknown vaccine effectiveness in this population, the higher risk of severe disease and death, and challenges with distancing in these settings.

#### Gatherings:

- If you are fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine (2 weeks after the second dose in 2-dose series like Moderna and Pfizer, or 2 weeks after the first dose in a single-dose vaccine like Johnson & Johnson) you may practice the following:
  - When you are not in your private home continue to wear a mask, keep 6-foot distance, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and wash your hands often.
  - When you are in your private home:
    - You may gather with other fully vaccinated people in small groups without masks or distancing
    - You may gather with unvaccinated people so long as the unvaccinated people are from a single household and are at low risk for developing severe disease

As of this release, McPherson County is now working to vaccinate the 65+ population and Group A-C. Individuals in these categories can contact their primary care provider to be vaccinated or call MCHD to schedule at 620-241-1753.

- Individuals 65+ years old and healthcare associated workers.
- Group A: K-12 staff, childcare providers, and disability service staff.
- Group B: Homeless shelters, higher education staff, USPS, and public transportation.
- Group C: Food processing, agriculture, DMV, public city and county offices, water/wastewater workers, and retail/restaurant/grocery workers.



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If you have questions about whether you should receive the vaccine or not, please discuss your concerns with your primary care provider. Vaccine supply comes in very small shipments so continued patience is appreciated. More information like dose counts can be found at <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/>.

The regular COVID-19 public release will come out tomorrow, March 11, 2021.