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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

From: Shalei Shea, RN BSN
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April 15, 2020 at 10:20 am

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IDENTIFIED IN MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson County Health Department (MCHD) reports 14 total confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in McPherson County.

McPherson County has 8 confirmed positive cases who have met recovery guidelines set forth by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). McPherson County has 2 hospitalized confirmed positive cases at this time as well. No additional information will be released about these patients at this time.

Per the CDC, KDHE, and Governor Laura Kelly recommendation, MCHD is also recommending residents of McPherson County wear a cloth covering when outside of their home. Homemade facemasks, if used correctly, are simply another tool to help people who may have the virus but don't know it from transmitting it to others. They are NOT meant to replace proven public health strategies like social distancing, staying home, and practicing good hygiene – which are all still the best ways to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

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

- Traveled within the United States to any of the following states with known widespread community transmission:
 - On or after March 15: California, Florida, New York, Washington State
 - On or after March 23: Illinois, New Jersey
 - On or after March 27: Louisiana, Colorado
 - On or after April 6: Connecticut
- Visited any of the following counties within the state of Colorado a week prior to or after March 15:
 - Eagle, Summit, Pitkin, and Gunnison County
- Traveled internationally on or after March 15
- Traveled on a cruise ship or river cruise on or after March 15

Please depend on health authorities to provide the most accurate information for McPherson County. If you are experiencing fever, shortness of breath, or cough, please call your health care provider. If you do not have a primary health care provider, please call your local hospital.

McPherson County is still at high risk for community spread. This is not the time to come out of quarantine in search of getting back to "normal." COVID-19 will likely continue to raise its ugly head in our communities.

McPherson County residents are encouraged to help the community and our health care system flatten the curve and slow the spread of coronavirus. They can do this by:

- Following the Stay-At-Home Order.
- Covering all coughs and sneezes.
- Washing your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.

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