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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: April 14, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

On Monday, I was able to visit Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF) in person and meet with the staff and men residing there. As part of that visit, I wanted to spend time with, and hear the needs of, those men we have moved into the newly reconstructed portion of the facility due to the quarantine imposed upon those from the Wichita Work Release Facility (WWRF). Much like when any of us move into a new residence, it takes time to acclimate to a new environment, locate all of your things and get new services established. That being said, the men and staff were doing a great job of assisting one another, identifying any needs and addressing them one by one. I'm pleased to report that there are no additional positive cases of COVID-19 today in any of our facilities.

While at Lansing, I encountered staff who are working multiple shifts and a lot of hours each week. They recognize the essential nature of the work they do day to day and keep doing the work even in this difficult time of COVID-19. Equally apparent when I visited the facility is the commitment of those staff and their leadership to the support of those in their care. In this time of advocacy for early release, family members cannot visit in person, and there are real concerns about populations in any type of group housing facility, the commitment our staff demonstrate to their responsibilities is readily apparent. I am proud of those corrections professionals for their demonstrated and exceptional level of commitment.

One last thought as a reminder, please keep following the protocols that are in place at our facilities. Whether it is prevention, sanitation, or use of cloth masks every process we have put into place during our COVID-19 response has been done in close consultation with public health officials at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). It is very important that we each apply those processes and trust in the scientific evidence that informs them.

These daily updates may be shorter than the updates we have sent out previously, but hopefully this will get information to you faster than before. Thank you for your support and encouragement during this time.