

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: July 30, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

Yesterday, we announced the death of a Topeka Correctional Facility (TCF) staff member. Richard Rose was a 17-year veteran of the department and worked as a Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, overseeing a group of women who went offsite to provide grounds work for many city-owned sites. He was well respected by both the staff and the crew of women he supervised. The deaths of our three staff and four residents have been extremely difficult. Please remember the families of these seven men as they continue to grieve their losses.

There have been many rumors circulating regarding both the Wichita and Oswego facilities. I want to reiterate that we are not planning to permanently close either of those locations. Part of our pandemic response has been to reduce the use of dormitory-style beds throughout our facilities and due to the lower number of admissions we have been seeing recently, we have been able to reduce the number of people housed in these dormitory settings by more than 800. A dormitory setting puts these men and women in close contact with many other residents, rather than just two or four in a traditional cell. The use of all of these beds will not go away forever, we will need them again. I appreciate the patience and understanding of our staff as we adapt during this pandemic environment.

We are continuing to see additional staff and residents test positive in facilities across the state. Thankfully, most of our residents have been identified as asymptomatic. For the time being, and while space allows, we will continue to relocate men who test positive to Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF) so that they can be housed in a more modern facility that is better equipped to slow the spread. Men can be housed there in smaller groups, in cells that are equipped with more modern air-handling systems. Our LCF staff have the expertise in dealing with positive cases and we know that they will continue their great work to keep each other and our residents healthy and safe.

Below is the most up-to-date information on the total number of positive cases we have had since the beginning of the pandemic:

Staff

- 96 LCF staff positive
 - 2 LCF staff deaths
- 8 TCF staff positive
 - 1 TCF staff death
- 1 KJCC staff positive

- 1 NCF staff positive
- 9 EDCF staff positive
- 4 ECF staff positive
- 9 WWRF staff positive
- 2 WCF staff positive
- 2 HCF staff positive
- 122 staff have recovered and returned to work

Resident Isolation (those who have tested positive for COVID-19)

- 850 LCF residents positive (850 recovered)
 - 4 LCF resident deaths
- 58 WWRF residents positive (58 recovered)
- 3 TCF residents positive (All have recovered)
- 2 NCF residents positive
- 1 HCF resident positive
- 9 EDCF residents positive
- 2 ECF residents positive