

Hello everyone,

In Governor Kelly's press conference yesterday, Secretary Lee Norman, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, took a couple of minutes to address the situation at Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF). He officially declared the COVID-19 situation at LCF as under containment. We ran approximately 300 tests on Saturday of residents who had previously tested negative and only six percent came back as positive, and all were asymptomatic. Just a month ago, we were talking about 50-75 percent of the population in certain living units being positive. I want to join Secretary Norman in praising everyone for taking this situation seriously, following the guidelines from KDHE and enduring through this long and arduous process. We know that COVID-19 isn't going anywhere and we could see another wave in the future, but I'm confident that we are prepared and will be able to act swiftly to contain the virus. Thank you to everyone in all work units for your efforts.

For the most current information regarding positive COVID-19 cases and those who have returned to work and general population, visit <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-coronavirus-updates/kdoc-covid-19-status>. These numbers reflect totals accumulated over time. The website is updated Monday-Friday, by 5 p.m.

I want to also take a moment to recognize what's happening across the country regarding racial injustices. Institutional racism exists in our society. Working in corrections, we see racial disparities in our prisons, but we see it in other areas, as well. With protests happening across the country and in our state following the death of George Floyd last week in Minnesota, I want to take a moment to recognize our fellow staff members who have experienced these injustices firsthand. We support you and stand beside you. As corrections employees, but more importantly as friends and neighbors, let's vow to do better.

Thank you for all you do. Your work matters.

Take care...and be safe.

Jeff Zmuda
Secretary of Corrections