

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Family Members  
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary  
Date: April 13, 2020  
Re: Coronavirus Updates

I hope this message finds you well. Many of you are anxiously awaiting the return of normal visitation and more regular contact with your loved ones. We are also looking forward to the day that we can put COVID-19 in the rearview mirror. For now though, I want to update you on the latest developments concerning the virus and KDOC.

Today you may have seen information in the media regarding a male resident, above the age of 40, who tested positive at the Wichita Work Release Facility (WWRF) over the weekend. That man, along with the 112 other men in his living unit, were transferred to Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF) yesterday. We know that many of you are concerned about these men being sent to Lansing, and I want to help address those concerns.

- Our satellite facilities include WWRF, Stockton and Oswego. The layout of these facilities is less conducive to separate areas for isolation than our main facilities
- Our residents will also have access to increased medical support at one of our main facilities
- The newly reconstructed medium/maximum security building at Lansing has been primarily unoccupied as we were unable to move men over to the new building prior to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic
- No WWRF residents will be intermingling with LCF residents. They will be housed in their own living unit, separated from the current LCF residents

As of this morning, LCF had 21 staff members and 18 residents test positive for the virus. Some good news to share is that several from the first round of residents who were placed into medical isolation are healthy and beginning to move back into general population.

Last week, a disturbance in the C-2 living unit at LCF caused a full lockdown of all LCF living units. Our team is conducting a full investigation to determine who all participated and the cause(s) of the disturbance. The lockdown status will be reevaluated daily and lifted as soon as it can be done so safely. We recognize that the actions of a few have impacted the entire facility. We wish it didn't have to be this way, but for the safety of everyone it was necessary.

Mask distribution continues throughout our facilities with the goal of each resident and staff member having their masks in hand by the end of the week. We will update you when that is completed.

We will, in conjunction with staff at KDHE, be assessing the situation daily and will adjust operations at our facilities, as circumstances warrant. The response at all facilities will vary slightly depending on infrastructure, staffing levels and additional needed supplies.

We are preparing to increase the frequency of our communications to you and your loved ones, but as a reminder, we have the KDOC COVID-19 hotline at (785) 746-7640. This line will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, and is being made available to help answer questions from family members, the community and staff. Also don't forget about our new e-mail address where you can submit your questions electronically: [kdoc\\_covid19@ks.gov](mailto:kdoc_covid19@ks.gov).

Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation during this challenging time.