

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: All Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents

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.

This weekend, a male resident, above the age of 40, tested positive at the Wichita Work Release Facility (WWRF). That man, along with the 112 other men in his living unit, were transferred to Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF) yesterday. Many of you may be wondering why these men were sent to LCF rather than remaining at WWRF, and I want to help address those questions:

- 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. If someone is returning to your living unit, rest assured that they are no longer symptomatic.

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.

We had staff members respond from some of our other facilities and many of you may be wondering why they are back at work, without any time in quarantine. After consultation with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, it was determined that none of the residents in the C living unit were in contact with any known or suspected COVID-19 cases. In addition, those

who assisted in the response did not have close contact with any of the population that were exhibiting symptoms associated with the virus, were under quarantine or had tested positive for the virus.

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, 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, so please check Jpay regularly for updates. Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation during this challenging time.