

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: April 20, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

We had a relatively quiet weekend throughout the KDOC, and I know you all are just as thankful for that as I am. We continued monitoring and testing of our population over the weekend and the number of those testing positive for the COVID-19 virus did increase a bit. As of today, the total number of COVID-19 positive cases that we've seen include 40 residents at LCF, and one Wichita Work Release Facility resident, currently housed at LCF. We also have 132 residents in quarantine at LCF who have not tested positive for the virus but remain under observation and monitoring. In terms of staff, we now have 47 staff at Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF) and one employee at Topeka Correctional Facility that have all tested positive for the virus. We continue our collaboration with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to develop strategies and tactics to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Topeka Correctional Facility is now our third location to have a positive case identified. Warden Geither has been very proactive, implementing social distancing practices even prior to this announcement. Women now come to the chow hall to pick up their food but take their food back to their living units to eat. In the chow hall, there are tape lines on the floor to ensure that women are not too close together, similar to what many of you see in grocery stores today. We know that the news of this positive case is disheartening, it is for us as well. We continue to educate our staff on ways to keep themselves, and those around them, healthy.

On Friday, the Department of Children and Families announced the Hero Relief Program, a program that provides childcare subsidies to eligible health care workers, first responders and other essential workers. In order to qualify, families must have countable gross income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level. For an average family of four, that equals a monthly income of \$5,458. We have sent this information to our staff, but we know that many of you may qualify as well. If you are working in an essential field during this pandemic, please visit **[KSHeroRelief.com](https://www.kshero.com)** for more information and instructions on how to apply.

Heroes come in many shapes and sizes. Some are providing health care services while others are in sanitation. Many of you may feel helpless during an uncertain time such as this. Know that a kind and supportive word to your loved one is also a heroic act. Some may not have access to phones and Jpay kiosks for various reasons, but something as simple as a handwritten note can mean so much and make all the difference in their behavior and anxiety level. Thank you for all you do to support your loved ones during this time.