

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: August 26, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

Over this summer we have closely monitored the COVID-19 data across Kansas and observed the upward trend in the number of persons with coronavirus. This seems to, at least in part, be connected to the increased types and number of activities and the easing of certain restrictions. In our experience the potential to expose our residents through visitation only increased over the summer. In the weeks after this resumption of activities in the community we have now seen every adult facility impacted by the virus. Like those in our communities, family members who would visit our facilities, are engaged in these same activities.

With summer coming to an end and the resumption of school activities, there are many questions across our society about how that will impact everyone in Kansas and the United States. Because of that uncertainty, at this time we will not be resuming in-person visitation. As we have throughout the pandemic, will continue to monitor the trends across Kansas and make decisions informed by those facts.

We have heard from some of you that, “because our staff are bringing in the virus from the community, it doesn’t make sense to not allow family members to come in for visitation.” Our staff are considered essential workers and unfortunately, they can unknowingly contract the virus while out in the community. We regularly encourage them to avoid large gatherings and continue wearing their masks, even while off duty. When anyone enters our facility, they have the potential to bring the virus in from the community. Right now, we cannot increase the risk to you and your loved ones by bringing additional people into a facility each visitation day. We believe the risk is too high as we have seen the strain on a facility when an outbreak occurs. Seven lives have been lost and that is seven too many.

We know the importance of face-to-face visits for the health and wellbeing of our residents. We understand that phone calls and video visits are not the same as an in-person visit. Please know that we want to reinstate in-person visits and we will continue working behind the scenes to make sure we are ready to safely do that when the time is right.

Yesterday, we announced our first COVID-19 positive resident at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC). Thankfully, the KJCC staff have been following our quarantine protocols for new admissions and this young man had no interaction with other residents. We are very hopeful that the effects will be minimal.

We are continuing to retest those who initially returned with negative results at Winfield, El Dorado, Larned, Hutchinson and Topeka to try and get the most accurate picture of how this pandemic is affecting each facility. For now, below is the most up-to-date information on the total number of positive cases we have had since the beginning of the pandemic:

Active Staff Cases

- 2 EDCF staff positive (18 cumulative)
- 1 ECF staff positive (4 cumulative)
- 10 HCF staff positive (17 cumulative)
- 1 LCF staff positive (98 cumulative)
 - 2 LCF staff deaths
- 7 LCMHF staff positive (26 cumulative)
- 0 NCF staff positive (1 cumulative)
- 0 TCF staff positive (10 cumulative)
 - 1 TCF staff death
- 0 WCF staff positive (2 cumulative)
- 0 WWRF staff positive (9 cumulative)
- 0 KJCC staff positive (3 cumulative)

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

- 9 EDCF residents positive (21 cumulative)
- 0 ECF residents positive (4 cumulative)
- 256 HCF residents positive (294 cumulative)
- 0 LCF residents positive (850 cumulative)
 - 4 LCF resident deaths
- 100 LCMHF residents positive (149 cumulative)
- 0 NCF residents positive (3 cumulative)
- 8 TCF residents positive (11 cumulative)
- 13 WCF residents positive (18 cumulative)
- 0 WWRF residents positive (58 cumulative)
- 1 KJCC resident positive (1 cumulative)