

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members
From: Randall Bowman, Executive Director of Public Affairs
Date: July 13, 2020
Re: Coronavirus Updates

The Secretary has been out of the office, so my apologies for getting this message out late.

Earlier in the pandemic, we began moving some of our older and more medically fragile men from Oswego to El Dorado Correctional Facility (EDCF) and Ellsworth Correctional Facility (ECF). Oswego is set up as dormitory-style housing and we have seen first-hand that dormitory style housing can cause the COVID-19 virus to spread more rapidly should it present. In addition, should there be an outbreak of the virus there, the near-by hospitals that we would use to care for the Oswego population are not large and may have trouble accommodating COVID-19 patients. This would then require an hours long transport to another hospital, the likelihood of which can be reduced by housing them at some of our other facilities.

With a goal of continuing to reduce the number of these residents we have housed in dormitory-style housing during the pandemic, we moved an additional 54 men last week. This will be an on-going process as we have beds available for these men. I want to extend a big thank you to the staff at these facilities for your patience and flexibility during this process.

By now, you have all seen the message indicating that face masks are required in all KDOC facilities and buildings. I will be one of the first to tell you that regularly wearing a face mask is a change and to acknowledge they can be uncomfortable. However, some of the local and national news headlines today cite Kansas as having the 13th fastest growing coronavirus spread and that our state set a record Monday for its two-week spike in the reported coronavirus cases. While many believe the pandemic has turned into a highly politicized spectacle due to the upcoming elections. I'm not here to debate that today. Our priority needs to be keeping everyone safe and healthy. Good hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing are practical and relatively easy things that we can do to make a difference during this pandemic. Let's all make a commitment to these acts and I trust that we'll see the difference that they make.

On Friday we announced our first staff member at Hutchinson Correctional Facility has tested positive for COVID-19. All the men in one dorm within the Central Unit began a quarantine last week and will be tested for the virus. We also identified an additional Topeka Correctional Facility staff who had tested positive. The women in one living unit were all tested, and we received word late last week that they all came back negative. We're thankful for that but will continue their quarantine period and monitoring them for symptoms.

Below is the most up-to-date information on the total number of positive cases we have had since the beginning of the pandemic:

Staff

- 96 LCF staff positive
 - 2 LCF staff deaths
- 9 TCF staff positive
- 1 KJCC staff positive
- 1 NCF staff positive (reassigned to LCF)
- 1 EDCF staff positive
- 2 ECF staff positive
- 9 WWRF staff positive
- 2 WCF staff positive (reassigned to LCF)
- 1 HCF staff positive
- 112 staff have recovered and returned to work

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

- 850 LCF residents positive (837 recovered)
 - 4 LCF resident deaths
- 58 WWRF residents positive (58 recovered)
- 2 TCF residents positive (both have recovered)