

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: July 15, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

Over the past couple of weeks, I have seen and heard wonderful stories coming out of our facilities.

On the 4th of July, Topeka Correctional Facility (TCF) hosted a movie night on the lawn. The women sat with their living units, socially distanced from others and were treated to sno-cones. Additional excitement came as the ladies were able to see fireworks while they were outside. One woman mentioned that she hadn't seen fireworks in 10 years. What a memorable experience for her.

While graduations across the country have been postponed and even cancelled, staff at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) worked hard to provide a memorable experience for the Lawrence Gardner High School graduates last Friday. They brought all the graduates out onto the east lawn and invited families, who haven't seen their children in at least four months, to park their cars just outside of the gates and be able to watch their son accept his diploma or GED certificate. Each car was then able to drive through the sally port to say hello to and take a socially distanced photo with their graduate. Graduation is always a special event at KJCC, but this year even more so.

The above situations are just a couple examples of a more humanistic approach to corrections. When we can do this successfully, it will lead to a safer environment for everyone, something that we should all want. This is something I strongly believe in and will continue working with our staff over the coming months and years to move us closer toward this approach.

On the COVID-19 front, we have seen a few new positive staff cases over the past couple of weeks. With these new cases, we have been testing those who may have been exposed to the positive cases. We tested a unit of just over 40 women at TCF last week and thankfully they all came back negative. We will retest them next week, as well. We are also testing two units at Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF) and are hopeful for similar results.

Many of our Kansas communities are seeing larger numbers of positive cases. Butler County, where our El Dorado facility and parole office resides, had only reported one day with more than one new case prior to May 17th. Since then, they've had more than 22 days with 2-7 new cases per day. Cowley County, home to our Winfield facility, had a total of five cases prior to May 24th and now the county is up to 87. Let's continue to wear our masks, socially distance and use good hand hygiene. You can make a difference in the health of those around you.

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)
- 2 HCF staff positive
- 113 staff have recovered and returned to work

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

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