

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: July 22, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

July 19-25 marks Probation and Parole Supervision Week. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges for these teams in how they provide supervision and services to the thousands of men and women working to be successful after incarceration, and upon return to the community. They have adjusted their work these past few months through the use of technology and additional safety measures when in-person contact is necessary. I can't thank them enough for the great work they do in contributing to the safety of all Kansans.

We have been seeing an uptick in positive COVID-19 cases among our staff over the past several weeks. Employees at Topeka Correctional Facility (TCF), Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF) and El Dorado Correctional Facility (EDCF) have all tested positive and contact tracing was conducted to determine what other staff and/or residents may have been exposed to these positive cases. In our initial round of testing at HCF, no residents' results have come back positive for the virus. We are thankful for that and know that if our staff remain diligent in a few key areas (staying home when sick, wearing a mask and social distancing) we can minimize the effects of the virus on you and your loved ones.

When these guidelines are followed closely, there will be fewer opportunities for the virus to spread. A prime example of this is at HCF. They had a staff member test positive for COVID-19 on July 8. He wore his mask while at work, only taking it off when he was in the officer's station by himself. All the men in his living unit were tested and the initial results are that no one else has tested positive for the virus. Zero. That doesn't mean it will stay that way, but these are the results we expect to see when our protocol is followed closely.

Right now, we do not have any updated information to share with you on when Wichita Work Release Facility will reopen or when we will resume in-person visitation. These are both things that we want to continue working toward, but Kansas is seeing record highs and while this is still the case, we will not be able to pursue these changes. It's been at least four months since you've seen your loved ones. We know that this has been extremely difficult and that you're ready. Right now, though, it just does not make good sense to put more lives at risk. Please continue to use phones, video visits and physical mail to keep in touch. These things are a morale booster during this unprecedented time.

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
- 8 TCF staff positive
- 1 KJCC staff positive
- 1 NCF staff positive
- 1 EDCF staff positive
- 2 ECF staff positive
- 9 WWRF staff positive
- 2 WCF staff positive
- 2 HCF staff positive
- 120 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)
- 3 TCF residents positive (Two have recovered)