

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: June 23, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

It was a little more than a month ago that we had to make the difficult decision to suspend operations at the Wichita Work Release Facility (WWRF) and move all residents to the Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF). That location was deemed a COVID-19 cluster site and the men at that facility could receive more dedicated medical care at LCF.

As the state has begun to reopen, we've received many questions as to when the residents will be transitioning back to WWRF. With the trend information that we shared with you last week, and in consultation with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, we cannot safely resume operations at that facility at this time. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 trend rates in that area to help us determine the right timeline to return.

We know that many are worried about their jobs, but just as when you arrived at WWRF, our staff will work with you to find a job or rejoin the one that you previously had. We are dedicated to helping you succeed and will work to ensure that once we are able to transition back, it will be as smooth a process as possible.

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
- 4 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 (reassigned to LCF)
- 68 staff have recovered and returned to work

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

- 841 LCF residents positive (833 recovered)

- 4 LCF resident deaths
- 58 WWRF residents positive (57 recovered)
- 2 TCF residents positive (both have recovered)

In the Governor's press conference yesterday, she indicated that the state needed to slow its reopening. "Though many Kansans and communities have been social distancing, wearing masks, and working hard over the past few weeks to mitigate the spread of the virus, we have unfortunately seen an increase in disease spread," Governor Kelly said. "After consulting with Secretary Norman's team at KDHE, I have decided that our state is not ready to move into the final phase of the 'Ad Astra' plan until July 6, 2020, at the earliest." There have been new cluster sites identified that trace back to Mother's Day and Memorial Day celebrations, funerals and other large gatherings. This is happening across the country, as well, and serves as a great reminder for us to wear our masks when we will be in close contact with others as we do not know who else they have been in contact with or where they have been. We are still actively working toward reopening in-person visitation, but we need your help to make this successful. Please keep yourself healthy by social distancing when possible, wearing masks and washing your hands frequently. We will let you know more about in-person visitation as soon as we are able.