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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: June 26, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

As you know, we've had a workgroup of wardens and other staff working on our plan to reinstate in-person visitation. Those plans are still being finalized, but I wanted to begin mentioning just a few of the changes you will see when we are able to resume this service.

First, the plan will have to adapt to changing circumstances in our communities and facilities. Depending upon those circumstances, visitation could resume, and at a later point in time be suspended again. Additional changes will be that we will require families to pre-schedule their visit through a new, on-line scheduling software. With the need to ensure we are socially distanced, there will be fewer people in the visitation room at any given time so it will be necessary for families to plan ahead.

Screening measures will be in place similar to what you might experience when you visit your doctor. Masks will also be required at all times during the visit. Initially, we will also not allow any contact between families and their loved one. We know this will be a hard adjustment for many, especially after not seeing each other for so long, but it's necessary.

We know these may be difficult changes, but it is what we need to do to ensure that everyone stays healthy and safe. We do not have a date set yet for when in-person visitation will be allowed but will ensure you have that information as soon as we have it identified.

Also reflecting on our current status, beginning next week I will reduce the frequency of these messages to weekly, on Wednesdays unless a topic requires a different day in a specific week. I have really appreciated your insight and feedback regarding these messages, they have helped to inform our response to the pandemic. If our circumstances require more frequent updates in the future, we will do so.

These have been unprecedented times, but I am proud of how you all have risen to the occasion. You have shown your willingness to adapt to new policies and protocol to keep our facilities clean. As we work toward in-person visitation, let's all commit to social distancing, mask wearing and washing our hands to ensure we're healthy and ready to reunite with our loved ones.