

MEMORANDUM

TO: Secretary Jeff Zmuda, Kansas Department of Corrections

CC: Deputy Secretary Joel Hrabe, Kansas Department of Corrections
Warden Shannon Meyer, Lansing Correctional Facility, Kansas Department of Corrections
Secretary Lee Norman, MD, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Deputy Secretary Ashley Goss, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
State Epidemiologist Farah Ahmed, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

FROM: Phil Griffin, Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention Director

DATE: June 3, 2020

RE: Containment of COVID-19 Outbreak at Lansing Correctional Facility

On approximately March 31, 2020 early indications of an outbreak of COVID-19 was recognized at the Lansing Correctional Facility and was then confirmed within the following week. Since this declaration multiple mitigation steps have been taken including lock down of the facility, isolation of confirmed COVID-19 offenders from others in the population, isolation of staff, total movement of offenders into a new facility which provided single cell air exchange, use of mask, increased sanitation, cohorts of offenders into small groups when out of cell, ceasing of all offender work and industry activity and total facility testing strategies included repeated testing of all staff and offenders. As of June 1, 2020, this outbreak and virus have been contained.

Containment means that while there is potential for new cases of the virus to occasionally occur, strategies have been put in place to quickly identify, trace and contain the virus without extensive transmission in a rapid manner. Just as in the broader community, COVID-19 is likely to continue to be present until a vaccine is available. In the meanwhile, the recommendations provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Centers for Disease Control apply to the facility as they are in the community. Masks should always be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained, frequent handwashing and sanitation should be the norm along with vigilant attention and rapid response to anyone with symptoms of COVID-19. Full and detailed virus control strategies will be contained in other documents and have already been discussed in meetings with leadership.

With this statement of containment, you are encouraged to move forward with resumption of activities and engagement with contractors and consultants while observing the highlighted community strategies listed above.