

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Family and Approved Contacts
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary
Date: March 13, 2020
RE: Coronavirus and KDOC Preparation

You are receiving this memorandum as we have identified you as a family member or other approved contact for a person currently residing at one of our Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) facilities. I am writing to provide you some information on our preparations in response to the current global coronavirus pandemic. Please know the following:

- The **Department of Corrections has been working with State Health Officials** at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and in communications with other Departments of Corrections across the United States to plan and prepare for COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus.
- **We have been implementing recommended guidelines** for preventative education, reviewing our operational and emergency plans to incorporate new information specific to COVID-19, and taking the recommended steps to prepare ourselves to provide care for those who become ill and to maintain effective operations of our facilities.

With the above in place, I want to notify you of the following:

- First, we have **no reported cases in our facilities**, and the number of cases confirmed in the state of Kansas remains low. If being up to date on Kansas data is helpful, the below link by the KDHE is provided as a resource to you. <http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/>
- Second, we have made the decision to **suspend visitation** for an indefinite period of time at all KDOC facilities to reduce the exposure to residents. This is a common practice and is being implemented at correctional facilities across the country during this time.
 - We encourage you to utilize JPay, phone and video visits to stay in touch with your loved ones.
 - For legal visits, we are encouraging you and your legal representatives to rely upon written and phone communications as much as possible, but at this time legal representatives may still enter the facility.
 - All programming and other activities within the facility will continue at this time.

All of the above, and any additional steps that may become appropriate, will be continually reassessed for as long as is necessary. While these new changes are in effect, we encourage you to

use the existing phone and email systems to maintain communications and check on the health of your loved ones. We know that this can create anxiety and stress for you as family members, but also for your loved ones. Know that we will be doing everything we can to keep stress to a minimum in our facilities.

We also want to encourage you to be taking the steps recommended by health officials to protect yourself and those around you. If you are not already familiar with those steps from sources in your community or place of employment, please visit KDHE's website.

<http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/>.

In closing, please understand that we are aware of this pandemic and are taking it seriously, and KDOC is working to provide appropriate care to individuals who are in our custody.

I appreciate your patience and understanding during this situation.

Thank you.