

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: March 13, 2020

Re: Coronavirus and Visitation

Over the course of the last several weeks, the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) has been assessing the current global coronavirus pandemic. We have been reviewing and updating our plans to respond within the KDOC. Governor Laura Kelly has now issued an emergency declaration for the State of Kansas in response to COVID-19 (coronavirus). This declaration reflects the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all parts of society, as reflected in the cancelation of public events, postponement or cancelation of sporting events, and colleges and universities going to only on-line classes. Currently, I want to advise you as to a set of next steps impacting those of you residing in our facilities.

Today we are taking steps to notify all impacted persons that we have suspended visitation at all KDOC facilities effective immediately in an effort to reduce the exposure to residents. In recent days, we have seen this step implemented at correctional facilities in more than a dozen other states and believe it is a necessary step for Kansas at this time.

With this decision, the following are being implemented.

- In addition to this notice to you, we are also sending communication (see attached) to all family and other persons currently on your approved contact list through the JPay system.
- We will also suspend access to facilities by volunteers, mentors, and hosting of tours resulting in access by only KDOC staff and contractors that are necessary to maintain operations of each facility.
- 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.
- We are initiating discussions with our private industry and community work sites with the intent of those continuing at this time. In instances where exposure to the public is common due to the specific job duties, those may have to be suspended. Your Warden and their team are making an assessment and will communicate this to you at the appropriate 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 JPay systems to maintain communications and check on the health of your loved ones in the community.

I would also like to remind you of the steps you can take to help prevent COVID-19. As you have seen on flyers posted around our facilities, the most important thing we can all do reduce the potential impact of COVID-19 is to take precautionary measures to protect our own health. If you have not already adopted these into your routine, please take these steps:

- **Wash** hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid** touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid** contact with people who are sick
- **Avoid** close contact with others while you are sick
- **Cover** your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing

Please also be aware of the symptoms, and if you have any of them report it immediately to medical staff or any KDOC staff person.

- Difficulty breathing
- Cough
- Fever

There are no medications specifically approved for COVID-19. Most people with mild COVID-19 illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some cases develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization. Your individual effort to prevent illness is needed and appreciated.

In closing, I want to recognize how difficult these steps are for you. The additional limitation on contact with your loved ones is only being taken given the unprecedented impact of COVID-19. And is being implemented as our goal is to minimize the impact of this virus on the health of you, our staff, and your loved ones if they had come to our facilities.

I appreciate your patience and cooperation during this challenging situation.