

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Family Members  
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary  
Date: May 15, 2020  
Re: Coronavirus Updates

Our Wichita Work Release Facility residents are getting situated at Lansing. Topeka Correctional Facility residents will begin eating all meals in their living units starting Monday, May 18. We are also beginning the process of moving around 100 men from Oswego to El Dorado. Those we will be moving are some of our oldest and most medically fragile residents. We have decided to move those men to El Dorado to be closer to a large hospital that would have more capabilities to care for these men, should they need it. As it currently stands, they are at least two hours away from a major hospital. The move also allows us to create some distancing between the remaining population in the dormitory-style housing at Oswego which should allow us to better manage spread of the virus should it make its way into that facility.

We've also added some new documents to our public-facing website for your reference. The first is information that was developed by both KDOC and KDHE regarding how correctional and detention facilities should plan for COVID-19. You can find that document here:

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/346/Prevention-and-Control-of-COVID-19-in-Correctional-and-Detention-Facilities-PDF-4-30-20>.

The second new document includes a number of terms and their definitions as they relate to COVID-19. It's important that we are consistent in the way we use some of these terms. For example, often the words quarantine and isolation are used interchangeably. Quarantine, however, refers to the separation of people who may have been exposed to the virus to see if they become sick whereas isolation refers to separating people who are ill with a contagious disease from people who are not. You can find that document here: <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-coronavirus-updates/covid-19-terminology/view>

For the most current information regarding positive COVID-19 cases and those who have returned to work and general population, visit <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-coronavirus-updates/kdoc-covid-19-status>. These numbers reflect totals accumulated over time. The website is updated Monday-Friday, by 5 p.m.

KDHE Secretary Lee Norman has noted that the state appears to be moving in the right direction on hospitalizations and deaths related to the virus, but that the daily rate of disease spread has not shown the downward trajectory that they would like to be seeing. I mention this to again caution you that as the state begins to reintroduce certain functions, we will be taking a much more measured approach to ensure the health and safety of those in our custody.