

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members  
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary  
Date: November 19, 2020  
Re: Coronavirus Updates

I know the top thing on everyone's mind seems to be the pandemic. I want to assure you that as a department we closely monitor developments and adjust our practices to make sure we are providing the best mitigation protocols to protect everyone and identify options for the best care possible for our population. We continue to aggressively contract trace any potential exposures, and follow established practices with regards to isolation, quarantine, testing, separating positive and negatives and retesting.

Under the guidance and oversight by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Department of Corrections has begun using a saliva-based test on a limited basis to ease testing anxiety and testing fatigue. The saliva-based test is less invasive. However, some key points must be adhered to for the test to be reliable and accurate:

- Water should be avoided 10 minutes prior to collection.
- Other drinks, food, and nasal sprays should be avoided for half an hour before sample collection.
- Before the test is administered the person being tested should begin pooling saliva in their mouth. Saliva production can be stimulated by thinking about food (favorite foods, upcoming meals, etc.) or about the saliva collection itself. This protocol is intended for the collection of the normal saliva that naturally pools into the mouth.
- No coughing or sniffing prior to sample collection is required.

The test requires a minimum of one half (.5) ml of saliva: the equivalent of 1 teaspoon would suffice.

As many of you have been tested with nasal swabs, you know those can be uncomfortable. I hope that this new method is a helpful improvement. For this to be effective for us, if you are identified for testing and the facility is using the saliva-based test, please adhere to the above requirements. Poor sample collections will cause invalid test results and would require us to return to nasal swabs.

The increase in the number of COVID-19 positive cases across our state is reflected in our facilities. The number of staff and residents testing positive for the virus and hospitalizations for our residents are also on the rise. I am sad to report we experienced another resident death earlier this week, as well as another early Wednesday morning. That brings to eleven the total number of residents we have lost to COVID-19. Let's all do our best to thwart the spread of the virus.

(continued)

We are expanding the number of times each week we post our COVID-19 related numbers on our website from once a week to twice a week. Effective next Monday, November 23 the information will be posted on our website by 5 p.m. on Monday and 5 p.m. on Thursday. This information can be found on our homepage at [www.doc.ks.gov/](http://www.doc.ks.gov/) . An exception will be the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Centurion staff, the health care providers including the KU Medical Center team, Aramark employees, and the KDOC staff in addition to our residents, families and others we serve for your continued commitment and collaborative efforts during these trying times. This pandemic response calls for our entire and extended community to pull together. Please continue to follow public health safety guidelines, including wearing a mask, washing hands, social distancing and avoiding large crowds.

#### Staff Positive Cases 11/18/20

- 30 EDCF staff positive (91 cumulative)
- 9 ECF staff positive (41 cumulative)
- 49 HCF staff positive (164 cumulative)
- 2 LCF staff positive (126 cumulative)
  - 2 LCF staff deaths
- 1 LCMHF staff positive (46 cumulative)
  - (Data as of 11/11/20)
- 8 NCF staff positive (84 cumulative)
- 15 TCF staff positive (30 cumulative)
  - 1 TCF staff death
- 2 WCF staff positive (21 cumulative)
- 2 WWRF staff positive (14 cumulative)
- 8 KJCC staff positive (29 cumulative)

#### Resident Positive Cases 11/18/20 and Yes or No if Currently Housing Positive Residents

- 69 EDCF residents positive (656 cumulative) Yes
- 44 ECF residents positive (390 cumulative) No
  - 3 ECF resident deaths
- 209 HCF residents positive (1240 cumulative) Yes
  - 2 HCF resident death
- 0 LCF residents positive (986 cumulative) Yes
  - 5 LCF resident deaths
- 2 LCMHF residents positive (344 cumulative) No
  - 1 LCMHF resident death
  - (Data as of 11/11/20)
- 44 NCF residents positive (666 cumulative) No
- 1 TCF residents positive (13 cumulative) Yes
- 51 WCF residents positive (158 cumulative) No
- 0 WWRF residents positive (81 cumulative) No
- 3 KJCC resident positive (8 cumulative) Yes
- 5 out of state resident positive (5 cumulative) Yes