

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: November 25, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

Let me begin by wishing all of you, and those closest to you a very Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

This Thanksgiving is unique as 2020 marks the 400-year anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. A recent article by The History Channel said most of what historians know about the first Thanksgiving comes from a letter written in 1621 by Edward Winslow, one of the 100 or so people who sailed from England to the new world in 1620. That account describes a harvest celebration occurring over three days sometime that fall. The event included feasting, games, military exercises and a good amount of diplomacy between the colonists and the Native American attendees. Just over 50 colonists are believed to have attended, the lucky ones who had made it through the first year, along with upwards of 100 Native Americans. Both cultures are described as having well-established traditions of giving thanks to God or Creator for the food they consume, the crops harvested and the company of others at the celebration.

This account is quite similar to our traditions celebrated among family and friends now 400 years later. However, in 2020 in the face of this ongoing pandemic, it is important that we all look for alternative ways to celebrate with our loved ones this year. Over the centuries, other pandemics, wars and other human challenges caused earlier generations of Americans to alter their Thanksgiving celebrations. In one such instance, by 1944 with the number of Americans serving in World War II, the number of women working in factories to support the war effort, and rationing of food, fuel and other supplies the usual observance of the holiday was curtailed for many Americans.

Like those generations before us, sometimes we must change how we celebrate, and we do so knowing there will be opportunities in the future to resume our traditions. Whether your family celebration becomes virtual, you scale back to only those in your household, move outdoors or make other changes, please be safe in these times. The significant increase in persons with the virus that we've seen in recent weeks is being attributed by public health officials to family and group gatherings. How we decide to celebrate this holiday will impact us all in the weeks ahead.

I wanted to also share some good news about the progress of the flu vaccinations. So far, close to two-thirds of our residents have received the flu vaccination, a substantial increase over that in years past. We are continuing to offer the flu vaccinations to both residents and staff, so if you haven't taken advantage of this opportunity, please do so as soon as possible. I know there are a number of reasons why someone may not choose to be vaccinated and I respect that each of us has the right to make choices regarding our health. That said, consider that by doing everything we can to stop the spread of seasonal flu we are helping to reduce the potential of managing both seasonal flu and coronavirus in our communities and facilities.

We have expanded 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 was posted on our website and except for the Holiday tomorrow will be posted on Thursdays as well. This information can be found on our homepage at www.doc.ks.gov/ .

This Monday November 23rd data is reposted here for any who didn't see the prior distribution.

Staff Positive Cases 11/23/20

- 24 EDCF staff positive (98 cumulative)
- 9 ECF staff positive (47 cumulative)
- 30 HCF staff positive (186 cumulative)
- 1 LCF staff positive (126 cumulative)
 - 2 LCF staff deaths
- 7 LCMHF staff positive (53 cumulative)
- 7 NCF staff positive (90 cumulative)
- 16 TCF staff positive (37 cumulative)
 - 1 TCF staff death
- 2 WCF staff positive (23 cumulative)
- 0 WWRF staff positive (14 cumulative)
- 17 KJCC staff positive (39 cumulative)

Resident Positive Cases 11/23/20 and Yes or No if Currently Housing Positive Residents

- 24 EDCF residents positive (662 cumulative) Yes
- 45 ECF residents positive (415 cumulative) No
 - 3 ECF resident deaths
- 145 HCF residents positive (1325 cumulative) Yes
 - 2 HCF resident death
- 0 LCF residents positive (986 cumulative) Yes
 - 5 LCF resident deaths
- 2 LCMHF residents positive (345 cumulative) No
 - 1 LCMHF resident death
- 39 NCF residents positive (675 cumulative) No
- 2 TCF residents positive (15 cumulative) Yes
- 47 WCF residents positive (161 cumulative) No
- 0 WWF residents positive (81 cumulative) No
- 3 KJCC resident positive (8 cumulative) Yes
- 5 out of state resident positive (5 cumulative) Yes