



Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members  
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary  
Date: October 14, 2020  
Re: Coronavirus Updates

I want to take the opportunity this week to share some exciting information about the future of the Kansas Department of Corrections with you. Over the past couple of weeks representatives from our staff, community organizations, and for what may be a KDOC first, our residents, persons on post-release supervision and families, have been convening in focus groups for zoom listening tours. These listening tours are designed to ask questions and get information to enlighten me and department leadership who will develop an updated strategic action plan. Our goal is to have a short, clear, living document, that helps us set the course for the future of KDOC. These focus groups are a first part of the process that will allow our leadership team to identify key elements to incorporate into the plan. As that work progresses, I will keep you informed, and when the plan is completed, we'll share it with everyone who works in, or receives services from, the department

In addition, I hope you have seen the information we provided to residents and families on October 12<sup>th</sup> regarding the recently released instructions from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on Economic Impact Payments (EIP) otherwise known as stimulus checks. Please do your part to read that information and, if appropriate, act by October 30, 2020.

To close this message for this week, other than the below data update, I'd like to address family visitation. Last summer we were hopeful that, if those of us living in the community did our part to help reduce the spread of the virus, and inside our facilities we did as well, we might have a different set of circumstances. However, one media headline today is that 80% of Kansas counties are now reporting COVID-19 case rates in the red zone. So clearly our optimism has not come true.

Faced with those facts, today I want to update you that this does not mean we stopped our discussions, in fact we continue to explore options for visitation. Some states have re-opened visitation, a smaller number have also closed again, and others have not, each of which provide examples for us. The future of visitation in Kansas will need to look very different and most likely would include: no physical contact, plexiglass barriers and/or distance between participants, active screening of all participants, be scheduled in advance through an online process, smaller numbers of visits per day, and fewer visitors per resident. Given the prevalence of the virus in our communities and in our facilities, today I cannot estimate when we could implement a new visitation process. Today I simply wanted to express that we know the value and importance of visitation and continue to monitor the data and look at our options.

This week our number of COVID-19 cases for each facility are as listed below. If a facility lists positive resident(s) and a “no” in the housed at this facility column, that reflects that the positive resident(s) were moved to a COVID-19 Medical Unit at one of our other facilities.

#### Staff Positive Cases 10/14/20

- 5 EDCF staff positive (51 cumulative)
- 3 ECF staff positive (13 cumulative)
- 14 HCF staff positive (61 cumulative)
- 3 LCF staff positive (115 cumulative)
  - 2 LCF staff deaths
- 4 LCMHF staff positive (44 cumulative)
- 11 NCF staff positive (14 cumulative)
- 0 TCF staff positive (13 cumulative)
  - 1 TCF staff death
- 2 WCF staff positive (13 cumulative)
- 0 WWRF staff positive (9 cumulative)
- 1 KJCC staff positive (11 cumulative)

#### Resident Positive Cases 10/14/20 and Yes or No if Currently Housing Positive Residents

- 68 EDCF residents positive (520 cumulative) Yes
- 80 ECF residents positive (124 cumulative) Yes
- 103 HCF residents positive (594 cumulative) Yes
- 8 LCF residents positive (974 cumulative) Yes
  - 4 LCF resident deaths
- 8 LCMHF residents positive (338 cumulative) No
  - 1 LCMHF resident death
- 135 NCF residents positive (140 cumulative) No
- 0 TCF residents positive (12 cumulative) No
- 20 WCF residents positive (45 cumulative) No
- 0 WWRF residents positive (81 cumulative) No
- 0 KJCC resident positive (4 cumulative) No