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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: August 11, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

I hope that you are monitoring news stories and other information related to the Delta variant and COVID-19. Even for those who are vaccinated, this is a troubling virus. Please continue to follow all KDOC mitigation factors, including wearing a mask, avoiding large groups whenever possible and practicing good hygiene. Vaccination appears to lessen the symptoms if an individual contracts the virus after being vaccinated. If you have not done so already, please consider getting the vaccine.

I had the pleasure of attending the kick-off of a new welding technology class at Lansing Correctional Facility last week. This program is sponsored through one of our education partners - Kansas City Kansas Community College – and will provide residents with training and college credit, ultimately leading to greater opportunities for quality employment and success upon return to our communities. The residents I had the opportunity to speak with on that day expressed great appreciation and optimism relating to this opportunity. Thank you to the staff at Lansing, our department's education staff and KCKCC who have worked so hard to bring this new program online!

When we began developing our Pathway for Success strategic planning process, we all agreed we would be data-driven and base our decisions on best practices. Each Strategic Implementation Team (SIT) has been heavily involved in research and data analysis over the past few months as they develop pilot projects. You saw an example of this with the communications survey that wrapped up a few weeks ago.

The Resource Deployment SIT is now gathering information to look at the use of Cognitive Behavior Interventions (CBI) across the entire department. The goal is to improve our use of this important tool to aid in creating the conditions for success. While this survey is intended for staff, I wanted to make sure you were aware of the kinds of projects underway. There are many other studies and pilots planned under the Pathway for Success umbrella, and I will continue to share information with you as it becomes available.

Please note: KDOC has updated IMPP 12-120A – Control of a Resident Personal Property – with changes affecting restrictive housing residents. These individuals will no longer be eligible to receive or purchase food items via canteen/commissary or commissary package programs. The only exception will be limited food purchases available through canteen for long term restrictive housing placements at LCF A2 and EDCF A&B Units. For those with internet access, you can read the full policy here: <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-policies/AdultIMPP/chapter-12/12-120a-control-of-resident-personal-property.pdf/view>