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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: December 1, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

Unfortunately our COVID positive numbers have increased slightly among our resident population. We are thankfully nowhere near the numbers from a year ago, but this virus still poses a serious threat. Please focus on the following mitigation protocols:

1. Wear a mask (regardless of vaccination status). There have been cases of “breakthrough” positive COVID-19 cases even after an individual is fully vaccinated.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer.
3. Avoid touching common surfaces like door handles. If this is unavoidable, wash your hands immediately and/or use hand sanitizer.
4. Follow physical distancing guidelines whenever possible.

If you have not yet received a COVID-19 vaccination or booster shot, please consider doing so. Vaccination for influenza is also an important way to protect your health. If you missed the flu shot clinic in your facility, please contact facility staff. As a reminder, residents who receive a flu shot qualify for a \$5 incentive that is deposited into their account to spend for canteen purchases, phone calls or any allowable use you decide.

This time of year seems to add up to more stress than any other time of the year. I encourage you to reach out to available support systems if you find that you are becoming overwhelmed. The announcement last week regarding a new pay plan for positions within KDOC was certainly welcome news and a solid start to addressing many of the staffing challenges we currently face. These staffing challenges then impact our residents and families in a number of ways. We will continue to do everything we can to reduce disruptions to daily schedules and other activities.