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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 23, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Updates

Allow me to begin by wishing each of you Happy Holidays! While the season may be missing many of our beloved traditions, there is joy to be found in an unexpected kindness or simply by wishing someone “Merry Christmas” and watching their frown turn into a smile as they wish you the same. I encourage you to try it out and see for yourself!

Being separated from our loved ones during the holidays can be especially difficult and we understand being unable to visit makes this even more difficult. The distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Kansas began last week. This included many of our staff and those with Centurion working in our COVID-19 Management Units (CMUs) receiving the vaccination. We continue to work with Governor Kelly’s office and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) on access as additional vaccines are received in Kansas. Details of those decisions will continue to be shared in Governor Kelly’s weekly updates at her Wednesday 4 p.m. press conference. Weekly updates are also available on the KDHE website: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>.

Last week I shared information from the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) relating to COVID-19 vaccines. As our nation and state expands access to coronavirus vaccines, I encourage you to learn all you can. This will allow you to make an informed decision regarding getting vaccinated.

The KDOC Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report is posted on the KDOC website and available through this link: <https://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/Reports/fy-2020-annual-report>. I hope each of you will take time to read through it. Our accomplishments are made even more remarkable by the fact we spent the last few months of the year responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet despite challenges, we all adapted to new routines, procedures and processes.

As you celebrate this Holiday Season, please remember to wear your mask, practice social distancing and follow all other public health and safety suggestions. Together, we can stop the spread! All resident and staff COVID-19 positive cases are posted twice a week on our website, Mondays and Thursdays by 5 p.m. at <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-coronavirus-updates/kdoc-covid-19-status>. Please note data will not be posted on Thursday, Dec. 24 because it is a state holiday.