

714 S.W. Jackson St.
Suite 300
Topeka, KS 66603



Phone: (785) 296-3317
Fax: (785) 296-0014
kdocpub@ks.gov
www.doc.ks.gov

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: February 3, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC Updates

Let me begin my message today by offering my congratulations to one of our parole officers who has been nominated for a national award, Spirit of the Compact, through the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS). Only ten individuals are nominated each year across 53 states and territories. This includes hundreds of ICAOS staff and thousands of supervising officers. The nomination applauds this individual for going above and beyond to ensure an offender continued to receive appropriate services and support, protecting the community and avoiding the need for incarceration and the expense of extradition. Congratulations!

The annual advocacy day sponsored by the Kansas Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) will be held February 10th. This event is usually held at the statehouse, but this year will be a virtual event, featuring a panel discussion on the impact of the pandemic on victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence. KCSDV sponsors this annual event to raise awareness about this important topic and honor those who have lost their lives to sexual and domestic violence. In 2019, 70,000 people received services from Kansas sexual assault and domestic violence victim advocacy programs, services that helped make a difference. You can learn more and register for the virtual event at <https://www.kcsdv.org/advocacy-day-2021/>.

In recent weeks I have shared that we are coordinating with the Governor's Office and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) on the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines across Kansas. That effort requires KDHE to coordinate with federal agencies, vaccine manufacturers and distributors, county health departments, hundreds of entities such as doctors' offices and health clinics as well as every employer and residential setting seeking vaccine. Within those perhaps thousand or more entities, our needs for vaccinating staff and residents have always been included in the planning.

We are currently working on all the logistical detail, and I anticipate I will be able to share our plan with you by tomorrow (Thurs., Feb. 4, 2021). For background, in late January Kansas moved from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the state vaccination plan, a phase that includes approximately one million Kansans. KDOC accounts for approximately 14,500 persons in Phase 2. This includes the majority of KDOC's state and contract employees, residents, private industry staff working on the grounds of our facilities, mentors and volunteers. A relatively small number of folks who do not meet the criteria as identified in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the state vaccination plan will be included in Phase 3.

As we finalize our plans, it is important that we all remain flexible and patient. We will continue to update our positive COVID-19 numbers twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays, on the KDOC website at <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-coronavirus-updates/kdoc-covid-19-status>, and are working on a plan of how best to report our progress on vaccinations.