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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: January 6, 2021

Re: Coronavirus Updates

Welcome to calendar year 2021! I hope you all find the new year treating you well thus far!

This new year will bring a new strategic plan for KDOC, Pathway to Success. In November I shared with you the groundwork we have been laying as part of the process. This included a listening tour of 10 virtual focus groups with 65 participants representing our staff, community partners, juvenile and adult residents, family members, former residents, and leaders from parole offices, facilities and central office. A special focus group was also conducted around the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion which provided important feedback and suggestions highlighting ways we can improve in these areas.

The resulting feedback along with other information formed the basis for a two-day virtual retreat with our Systems Management Team along with follow-up discussions with the Core Leadership Team and our strategic planning partner, TeamTech. Later this week, our Systems Management Team will again gather virtually to review progress and add the finishing touches to a new KDOC Vision and Mission statements, Strategic Priorities and the Implementation Plan. Next week I will plan to share more information about the implementation plan.

The 2021 Kansas Legislative Session begins on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to working with Governor Kelly and Kansas lawmakers as together we develop solutions and opportunities to improve our system. This year Governor Laura Kelly will deliver the State of the State address virtually beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. The address maps out the Governor's legislative priorities for 2021. Viewers can watch the address on public television stations: KTWU, KPTS and Smoky Hills Public Broadcasting and online on the Governor's Facebook page.

I understand and share concerns we are hearing from some of you regarding access and plans for coronavirus vaccines. We continue to work with the Governor and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) on access to and distribution of vaccines and will update you as new information becomes available. We anticipate that information being available in the near future.

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Please also monitor developments through the Governor's weekly media conference every Wednesday at 4 p.m. Updates are also available on the KDHE website: COVID-19 Vaccine | KDHE COVID-19 (kdheks.gov). As a reminder, 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> .

Even as vaccinations become more of a reality, we have a long way to go before we can back away from the public health and safety protocols we have in place. Please continue to mask up, practice social distancing whenever and wherever possible, wash your hands frequently and stay home if you have a temperature or other COVID-19 related symptoms.

Welcome again to 2021! Together, we can stop the spread!