To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: July 7, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

A most pressing concern within our facilities is the use of illegal drugs, often introduced through the U.S. Mail. KDOC has begun to implement added screening strategies in our mailrooms. In addition, we will continue to explore and deploy strategies that help us combat this threat to safety and security in our facilities.

Use of these drugs damages the individual's health and safety – and the safety of others - and in many cases can prove fatal. Every facility has resources that can help fight addiction and learn new, healthier coping skills. Please reach out for the help and support that you need.

A question we receive fairly often is when we expect to lift the requirements of wearing masks and end coronavirus mitigation protocols. We are also asked about resuming normal visitation schedules. The short answer to these questions is we aren't there yet. COVID-19 is still a very real public health threat. We continue to encourage staff and residents to opt for vaccination if that choice is right for them. The current guidance from both the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and KDHE regarding correctional facilities is to wear masks along with other good hygiene behaviors such as washing hands, avoid touching your face and avoid non-essential physical contact. Here is the link to the current CDC guidance (updated June 9, 2021).

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html#infection-control

And finally, as we move into the summer months of July and August, I know the temperature – both inside and outside – is uncomfortable for many of our residents. Please make sure you notify your facility staff if you begin to feel unwell.