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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary
Date: June 16, 2021
Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

We are getting questions about lifting the current restrictions for in-person visitations and about our pandemic related safety protocols. With many of our state's pandemic emergency orders ending, and the number of COVID-19 positive cases at or near zero among residents and staff in KDOC facilities, we are all anxious to return to normal. We are unsure as to the impact the ending of the emergency orders will have on our pandemic protocols such as temperature/symptom checks and the wearing of masks. We are working with Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to determine what that might look like. That said, and until we have a clearer understanding, all protocols will remain in place. We will communicate any changes if/when we know them.

Our Strategic Implementation Teams (SITs) are a key part in implementing our strategic plan, Pathway for Success. These are made up of members of our workforce from across KDOC and have been actively engaged in planning next steps for KDOC since starting their work in April. In the coming weeks residents and families may begin to see some pilot projects launched in different parts of KDOC.

Pilots are a great way to gather data or test out possible solutions or approaches to solve problems. One of the pilots is a survey on the effectiveness of communication. Residents and families, along with staff and the public, will have opportunities to respond to the survey. Another project is the Positive Behavior Report pilot. This will launch at a few targeted units at multiple facilities. The pilot is focused on increasing motivation to engage in positive behavior by catching people doing something right instead of doing something wrong. This will include specific training for staff, incentives for participation, surveys of staff and residents, and monitoring data to measure the impact on overall behavior. There are other pilot projects geared specifically for staff.

These pilots and surveys are important next steps on our Pathway for Success. Not everyone will take part in a particular pilot or survey, but if you are asked, please take that opportunity. Your input is valuable and important!