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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary
Date: March 17, 2021
Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

The 2021 Economic Impact Payments are beginning this week for the general public. However, KDOC is awaiting IRS guidance and direction regarding economic impact payments (EIP) for residents at our facilities. We will keep you updated.

We are now in our sixth week of offering vaccinations to staff and residents under Phase 2 of the Kansas Vaccination Priority Plan. Our clinics are still going on, and as always if you previously declined the vaccine you may change your mind and can be vaccinated. If you have not already done so, please take the opportunity to review information about the vaccines so that you are prepared to decide what is best for you individually. One source of information is Vaccine Info | KDHE Vaccine KS (<https://www.kansasvaccine.gov>). Information is also available in each facility.

We continue to monitor progress for resident vaccinations on our website at <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-coronavirus-updates/covid-19-vaccinations>. Next week, we will also begin sharing information regarding the total number of staff who have accepted the vaccine. This information will be updated by close of business each Wednesday and included in a weekly memo sent to residents and families each Thursday.

Last week the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released the first set of public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people. That guidance will be updated as additional progress is made nationwide on vaccinations and as level of community spread of COVID-19 infections hopefully declines. However, this guidance begins to relax some of the mitigation strategies citizens and communities have been encouraged to follow over the past year. There is still need for those in non-healthcare congregate settings (such as correctional facilities) to follow health and safety protocols. While the rate of infection continues to decline, the potential for infection is still very real. Vaccination is one very important part of managing the pandemic, but it is only one of many strategies.

Be Safe and Stay Healthy!

