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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 24, 2021 (**revised March 25, 2021**)
Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

KDOC has recently received IRS guidance on how residents at our facilities can claim the Economic Impact payments. Here is a brief summary of useful information:

- If you received the first and second stimulus (EIP1 and EIP2), you do not need to do anything more. Your eligibility for the third EIP will be determined based on information you have already provided to the IRS.
- If you did not receive economic impact payments (EIP1 and EIP2), or you only received one but not both of them, you will need to file a 2020 tax return and claim the Recovery Rebate Credit (RCC). Instructions on how to complete the return have been distributed to facility staff. You can find the 1040 tax return forms in your facility library.
- For Residents claiming the RCC (for the first two payments) on your tax return, you will receive it as a tax refund.
- Resident tax refunds may be reduced to pay off debt owed to IRS such as past due child support, Federal agency non-tax debts, State income tax obligations, or certain Unemployment Compensation debts owed to a state.
- Economic Impact Payments are not considered a government benefit.
- Residents if you have any questions you should contact facility staff using the usual manor of your specific facility.
- Families may contact the IRS at the below number they have provided us with for any questions you may have about all EIPs.
 - 800-829-1040, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. local time.
 - Callers who are hearing impaired, TTY/TDD 800-829-4059.

We are now in our seventh week of offering vaccinations to staff and residents and we continue to monitor progress on our website at <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-coronavirus-updates/covid-19-vaccinations>. Beginning this week, we will share the number of staff who have accepted the COVID-19 vaccine in each facility. This information is included in a memo emailed to all residents and families on Thursdays. Our state has now moved into Phases 3 and 4 of the COVID-19 Vaccination Prioritization Plan. You can find more information at <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/>

Do you still need to wear your mask after being vaccinated? The answer is yes! Getting vaccinated protects you and may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. But the pandemic is not over yet. For the foreseeable future, all of our current mitigation protocols will remain in place. This includes wearing masks, distancing, good hygiene and frequent hand washing. These mitigation strategies reduce possible exposures that may occur in any

environment you may find yourself in. Once an individual completes the vaccination series, about two weeks after completion, vaccination eliminates the need to quarantine if an exposure occurs.

Over the past two to three weeks our COVID-19 positive numbers have vastly improved. We are hoping this trend holds. We are finalizing plans to resume visitation in all KDOC facilities. Our target date is April 18, and more information will be available soon.