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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 31, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

I would like to begin by expressing condolences to the family, friends and co-workers of David Warner who passed away March 18th as a result of complications from the COVID-19 virus. David served as a pre-release instructor at Winfield Correctional Facility, having also served at our Hutchinson facility in a similar role. During his time with our KDOC family he made a difference in many lives, and his zest for life and good humor and optimism will be sorely missed. You can view David's obituary which includes information on memorials that can be made in his honor: <http://www.milesfuneralservice.com/obituary/david-warner> .

Our COVID-19 positive numbers over the past few weeks have vastly improved. We are hoping this trend holds. We are making plans to establish limited visitation at facilities beginning April 18th. **Please make sure you check messages and information out early next week so that you are aware of the plans and new processes.**

We are now in our eighth week of offering vaccinations to staff and residents and we continue to post progress on our website at <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-coronavirus-updates/covid-19-vaccinations> . Beginning last week, we began sharing 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 5 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 also drops the need to quarantine if an exposure occurs.