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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members  
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary  
Date: May 12, 2021  
Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

We continue to experience low COVID-19 positive numbers across all facilities. While this is very good news, we ask that you continue to monitor public health news for additional information. As a reminder, masks will still be worn within our facilities and offices until further notice. In addition, vaccination numbers continue to increase among both residents and staff. One question on everyone's mind is the impact this might have on in-person visitation. We plan to reestablish contact between loved ones visiting in our facilities as soon as we believe doing so does not promote the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Working in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, we will continue to monitor circumstances in our facilities and communities regarding management of the COVID-19 virus and adjust our visiting protocols accordingly.

The Kansas Legislature adjourned its 2021 session last weekend. There are two KDOC projects that received approval and funding this year, and these will have a positive impact for our organization. The first is the renovation of the closed former X Unit at Lansing East to provide housing for 200 residents with a focus on substance abuse treatment and prevention. The second project is at our facility in Winfield and includes renovation of the existing Funston and Triplet buildings and the addition of a new food service/dining building. This project will add 241 beds for two KDOC populations: acute health issues requiring enhanced supportive care for chronic medical conditions or dementia-related illnesses, and older residents. The design of these buildings, the medical and other services available, and the training of staff will be specific to the needs of these populations.

KDOC anticipates we will bid the contract this summer with a construction start in the fall of 2021. We currently estimate it will take about a year to complete the work. Projected occupancy is late 2022 or early 2023.

You will start seeing KDOC *Pathway for Success* posters soon in all facilities and KDOC offices. These will serve as a visible reminder that our vision for the future requires us all to examine current practices and embrace change. There are five Strategic Implementation Teams currently meeting on topics related to employee environment, population environment, communications, resource deployment and grant/resource expansion. More information will be shared soon!