

714 S.W. Jackson St.  
Suite 300  
Topeka, KS 66603



Phone: (785) 296-3317  
Fax: (785) 296-0014  
kdocpub@ks.gov  
www.doc.ks.gov

---

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: May 5, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

Our COVID-19 positive numbers are in the single digits, and in most areas the number is zero! That is such good news. Please continue to monitor public health news as we all do our part to keep the numbers low. Many areas in our state have lifted their face mask requirements, but within our facilities and offices we will continue to require them until further notice. There is much in the media today about the percentage of our population in the U.S. who are vaccinated and what that might mean for the future. This continues to be a personal choice, but I do encourage you to seek out information about the vaccines available.

This week our nation is celebrating Correctional Officers and Staff Appreciation Week. The special week dates back to 1984 through a proclamation signed by former President Reagan. Working in corrections is a job like no other. It can be stressful and incredibly rewarding, even when the “thank yous” are few and far between. I hope you will join me in expressing appreciation to the men and women who work within KDOC to help and assist you and your loved ones.

In partnership with EBSCO Information Services and American Prison Data Systems (APDS), KDOC will begin offering residents access to over 6,000 full-text journals and magazines available from EBSCO, the leading provider of research databases, e-journals, magazine subscriptions, e-books and discovery service to libraries of all kinds. The system will be piloted this summer with Lansing Correctional Facility residents enrolled in the associate degree program through Donnelly College. This is a major step in having students within our facilities engage in college coursework just as they would on a college campus. Quality educational resources are essential to support educational attainment and future opportunities, which in turn increases the probability of success upon return to the community. We have many other education-related projects in the works, so stay tuned!

This Sunday – May 9th - is Mother’s Day. Special days such as Mother’s Day remind us of the importance of connecting with family and friends and of taking care of ourselves and each other. I understand this creates special challenges for our residents. I encourage you to take advantage of the many ways we have for communication and connection between residents and families.