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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: November 3, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

The precautions and preventative measures we are following within our facilities mean our COVID-19 numbers remain low. While this is cause for optimism, the pandemic continues across our state, nation and world. Vaccination remains a critical part of managing this pandemic, and I encourage those who have not yet been vaccinated to seek out information about the vaccines that are available and consider the advantages. You can find information on the KDHE and CDC websites as well as in media. Booster vaccinations are beginning within facilities and you will be provided additional information regarding how to access these. Please contact your facility staff for more information.

KDOC lost a true friend and advocate last week with the death of Representative Russ Jennings who passed away Oct. 27. His was a life of service, devoted to improving state and local policies and services in support of justice-involved adults and juveniles and creating a safer Kansas for all citizens. Throughout his adult life, Rep. Jennings served in various capacities within our state in the criminal justice system, including Sheriff of Kearny County in Lakin, a district magistrate Judge in the same county, then director of the Southwest Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Garden City and Commissioner of Juvenile Justice for the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority.

Until his untimely death this past week, he served six terms in our state's legislature. His leadership positions included Chair of the House Corrections Committee, a position he held for the last three sessions. He was instrumental in reforming our state's juvenile justice system and led many other reforms that have resulted in improvements throughout KDOC. He will be missed.

As a reminder, Daylight Saving Time officially ends at 1 a.m. Sunday, November 7. Set your clocks and watches back one hour, and enjoy an extra hour of rest if you are able!