

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: September 15, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

The COVID-19 positive number among KDOC residents remains low. We are hopeful that will continue to be the case. However, if this past year taught us anything about the pandemic it is that the virus is highly contagious, and the numbers can quickly begin increasing. We will continue to follow all health and safety protocols currently in place, and I encourage anyone who has not been vaccinated to consider taking that step to protect yourself and others.

As we enter the fall season, staff shortages continue to be at the top of the list of challenges we face at the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC). Our staffing levels, not just among our uniformed staff, but in parole, unit team, and virtually all areas, continue to be on the decline. This impacts our staff through longer days and work weeks or by taking on extra duties and assignments so that we continue to meet the safety, security and programming needs of our department and communities.

We are not alone in our need to retain experienced staff and to hire new employees. The public and private sectors in Kansas and across the nation are facing much the same challenge. In fact, many correctional organizations across the country are working through circumstances similar to or more dire than ours. For now, we will continue to pursue a number of strategies we believe will make a difference and improve this situation over time.