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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: September 8, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

With the COVID-19 surge our state is currently experiencing, please redouble your efforts to stay safe and healthy. Masks are required in all KDOC facilities and work locations. Governor Kelly's latest guidance outlines safety protocols such as social distancing and conducting meetings virtually. Please continue to practice good hygiene and if you are feeling ill please alert facility staff.

Testing and vaccination opportunities are continuing as well. If you are not vaccinated, I urge you to research the effectiveness of the vaccines and make the decision you feel is right for you. Information can be found at <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/> or by asking for information at the facility.

KDOC recently reported that across our eight adult facilities 325 residents are enrolled in college and career classes for the Fall 2021 semester, including CTE (Career Technical Education) programs and associate and four-year degrees. This is an increase of 129 students over the last academic year.

CTE programs currently include welding, sustainable/renewable energy, carpentry and electrical skills. Degree programs include associate of applied science, associate of arts in liberal studies and Bachelor of Science in computer information systems. Special education and Title I services are also offered, and another 134 residents are enrolled in GED programs for those who have not earned their high school diploma.

The expansion of the college and CTE opportunities is due in part to Second Chance Pell Grants. This funding source is likely to increase in the coming years, and as funding and space within the facilities allow more programs and degrees will be added. If you have an interest in furthering your education – no matter what level – please speak with your counselor.

There is a direct link to education achievement and success after an individual fulfills their sentence and returns to the community. Job readiness programs, transitional planning, private and correctional industry opportunities, mentors, tutors and many other key partners all play a part, but education and training are the foundation.