

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Family Members
From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary
Date: April 8, 2020
Re: Coronavirus Updates

I want to take this opportunity to give you the most up-to-date information on the positive COVID-19 cases within the Kansas prison system. Information is changing rapidly, but we will do our best to ensure that you have the most current information

Additional staff and residents have been identified as having the COVID-19 virus at the Lansing facility. As of today, 9 staff assigned to Lansing and 8 members of the population there have tested positive for the virus. An additional 9 residents are in quarantine and being monitored at the facility. We are utilizing a pod in the new, reconstructed facility as a quarantine unit for those in our population who have tested positive as well as those under quarantine.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was at Lansing beginning on Saturday to assist us with contact tracing to determine what other people these identified cases may have been in contact with in the days leading up to their symptoms being present. With these additional cases, we have implemented a modified operations plan at Lansing. This includes reducing the movement of residents and modified staffing. We are, in conjunction with staff at KDHE, assessing the situation daily and will adjust operations at our facilities, as circumstances warrant. At this point, we have no other individuals in our population or staff members, at any other facilities, that have tested positive for COVID-19.

Beginning on Thursday April 9th, we will begin distribution of cloth masks manufactured by Kansas Correctional Industries (KCI) to both staff and residents at all facilities throughout the state, and to staff in both of our parole regions. The first masks will go to the Lansing facility because of the current positive cases there, and as production numbers increase to match the need, masks will be distributed to other facilities and parole. Priority will be determined based upon positive resident cases, or the greatest potential for positive cases. Based on the current rate of production, we estimate all facilities and parole offices will have the masks in the next two to three weeks. Information regarding the masks, to include proper laundering instructions will be provided as they are distributed. Please encourage your loved one to read the materials and follow the instructions.

We will, in conjunction with staff at KDHE, be assessing the situation daily and will adjust operations at our facilities, as circumstances warrant. The response at all facilities will vary slightly depending on infrastructure, staffing levels and additional needed supplies.

As a reminder, we have also just launched our KDOC COVID-19 hotline at (785) 746-7640. This line will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, and is being made available to help answer questions from family members, the community and staff. Also don't forget about our new e-mail address where you can submit your questions: kdoc_covid19@ks.gov.

Just as our staff are concerned for their families' during this time, we know that you are concerned for your loved one. We will work diligently to ensure their health and safety and to be responsive to you in your questions and concerns. We're in this together.