**Family Reunion Program Visits Will Resume in September
June 14, 2021**

The Department has been carefully monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic both in our correctional facilities and the surrounding communities. With the ongoing efforts to vaccinate the incarcerated population and the community at large, we have seen a decline in the positivity rate of COVID-19. As a result, the Department has been able to resume some of its most vital programming.

In continuing with this progress, and in accordance with the Department’s dedication to preserving and strengthening family ties, if everything continues on the current trajectory, we are planning to resume the Family Reunion Program (FRP) beginning Wednesday, September 8, 2021, in accordance with Directive #4500 and the additional criteria outlined as follows:

* Incarcerated individuals whose previously approved FRP visits were cancelled due to COVID-19, will be given priority scheduling, provided that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
* All incarcerated individuals participating in the FRP must be fully vaccinated (meaning at least two weeks have passed since the last vaccination was administered) against COVID-19.
* All approved FRP participants, age 12 and older, must be fully vaccinated to participate. All participants must provide a copy of their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card documenting that they are fully vaccinated. This documentation must be received at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled FRP visit.
* Family arrival times will be staggered to allow for adequate social distancing.
* All FRP participants will be screened with a questionnaire and temperature check prior to participating in the FRP visit. If a FRP participant fails the screening, they will not be permitted to participate in the FRP visit.
* All visitors under the age of 12 shall be required to present a negative COVID-19 test obtained within three days prior to the scheduled date of the FRP visit and present proof at the time of screening.

**NOTE:** If a person is denied participation for any reason, and they are a guardian for any children scheduled to participate in the FRP visit, those children will not be permitted to participate in the FRP visit.

* Masks must be worn whenever outside of the assigned FRP unit and/or when in close proximity of other visitors. This includes during processing and transportation to and from the unit.
* Facilities will supply disinfectant cleaning products to use during visits.
* All small appliances, silverware, dishes, pots, pans and entertainment devices will need to be sanitized, in accordance with CDC guidelines after each visit.
* Units will be sanitized prior to and immediately following each use, including all hard surfaces, floors, chairs and tabletops perCDC guidelines.
* It is recommended that all participants wash their hands with soap and water and/or use hand sanitizer routinely.

We must remain cognizant that the COVID-19 pandemic is still occurring, and the situation remains ever-changing. Barring any adverse changes that would require the Department to reassess the safety of resuming FRP, you can expect continued communication on this topic prior to the September 8, 2021 reopening date.