

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** AHCC

**Date and Time:** 07/29/2020, 2:00PM

## Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Jess Robb, Facility Secretary
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- April Chavez, LFC Member
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Donna Jaramillo, Family Secretary
- Anita Barker, Family Co-Chair
- Julianne Presson, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Cody Darrigan, LFC Member

## Weekly Update from Superintendent James Key

- There are 12 active cases in the RCF (Regional Care Facility), 2 in the infirmary, and 0 on hospital watch. AHCC has 1 individual on isolation, 2 on quarantine and one tier in MSU on quarantine. We are waiting on the second test results before we can look at releasing the tier. The first test has already come back negative.
  - **Update: A double negative test result was received. C5 was taken off quarantine Friday 7/31.**
- Out of all the tests done in the entire state of Washington, general public and DOC there is a 5.7% positive COVID-19 percentage.
- MSU had 1 grievance in regards to inmate banking. The MAIN institution had 6 grievances. These were in regards to banking, gratuity, dayroom access and schedules.
- AHCC has done 33 COVID-19 tests total. We have 1 test pending for the second negative result.
- There was a concern last week about a conversation on the SFC call and gratuity for those who could not work. During a discussion on gratuity ending for people that have been unable to work, it was explained that with budget cuts, it's just not possible to continue payment. However, several facilities have created some additional work positions for those who are unable to work in the form of extra unit porter positions, when possible.
- Part of this week I will be out among the population talking with the incarcerated and the staff. I understand everyone is frustrated. Our local numbers in Spokane really has a large play on what happens at this institution. We have 700 staff going in and out of the institution. I hope the public is wearing their masks and staying compliant.
- We had a quality assurance team, made up of other DOC staff from other facilities, come inside AHCC and look at our PPE and cleaning compliance. They had a positive report out for us. There was concern about a couple areas where staff were to close together and we have already implemented an action plan to correct this.

## Weekly Update from Associate Superintendent Kay Heinrich

- We had tier rep last week, the tone remains constant. The issues have stayed consistent, they are wanting more to do and more time out of their cells. We are working on doing rotations in the unit based on the CUS's flexible decisions. Overall, the incarcerated population are understanding about what we can do. Each week they appreciate the consistent communication. K unit individuals are very appreciative to get out in the yard.
- I/I are very appreciative of the barriers between the phones and the constant effort working with the Wi-Fi and JPay players for better service.

## Pre-Submitted Questions

### Question

How many AH staff members have tested positive for Covid-19? The DOC website shows 3, but Mr. Key has said there are 4.

### Answer

Yes, we have had 4 staff so far. 1 individual has had COVID-19 twice.

### Question

Have any DOC staff members who are involved with transporting inmates to hospitals or clinics for medical appointments or to other facilities or places tested positive for Covid-19?

### Answer

I am not sure what the number is statewide, but AHCC has had none.

### Question

Why are CO's in K Unit wearing face shields? Are face shields being worn in other units at AH?

### Answer

This was a change in the medical protocol coming from HQ. If you look at the CDC guidelines for hospitals or care facilities they are required to wear face shields and masks. We are also in the process of building other barriers for officer's stations to help with that separation. There are other units around the state (RCF, protected units, etc.)

## Additional Questions

### Question

During the state meeting a woman said the state was cutting gratuity pay for those who cannot work because there are many other jobs available. Is there any way for those who cannot work outside the unit to continue receiving gratuity pay?

### Answer

Some additional jobs have been added inside these units, such as porters to help with this. However this answer did come down from HQ, we cannot change it.

### Question

What kind of programming may be cancelled based on the budget cut at AHCC?

### Answer

We have budget units at HQ working on this. I have not been involved with any budget meetings. I don't believe this has been determined yet or if that will happen.

### Question

We know the I/I are having a difficult time not having visiting, is there any way we could do a drive around the prison and have the guys out in the yard to show our support?

### Answer

I appreciate the suggestion but this would not be allowed due to safety and security.

### Question

Who can I get in contact with about missing laundry?

#### Answer

You have a couple different options; you can write a letter to the General Manager of CI, Barb Arnett, or to myself and I will forward onto the correct person to look into this.

#### Question

On the laundry issue don't you need to know what unit it is?

#### Answer

Yes I do. If you send in a letter I would need the specific information.

#### Question

Medical decided they didn't want to go into two different rooms to check vitals, they put the active cases with those who are not symptomatic.

#### Answer

I am not familiar with this, but I will look into this. The RCF is broken into two parts, active cases and a shedding area.

- **Update from Infectious Control Nurse: Anyone who has not had symptoms for 14 days is considered recovered unless a patient had severe critical illness or are severely immunocompromised then they will need to be asymptomatic for 20 days. Recovered persons can continue to shed detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA in upper respiratory specimens for up to 3 months after illness onset, but they are no longer contagious. Per the CDC the immune response is not yet understood. Patients are unlikely to be re-infected shortly (3 months or more) after they recover.**

#### Comment

I appreciate you seeing when things are not correct and correcting them. Your leadership has been great as well as keeping COVID-19 out of the prison.

#### Question

In the SFC minutes they are looking at hopefully having hot breakfast start in the autumn. In the meantime could they add something new to the boats that is not carbs? Maybe an orange or hard boiled eggs?

#### Answer

We have the funding to implement hot breakfast. We can still serve a hot breakfast to go, but if you have a sit down breakfast it would push back programming since we are only allowed 2 to a table. I have asked CI to look into grab and go hot breakfast so it does not push back yard or programming.

#### Question

Are you looking into having more dayroom access?

#### Answer

We've had proposals from tier reps that we are looking at. We have to do the 15 minutes of cleaning every hour. I believe this has helped keep COVID-19 out of the institution. We have to balance operations with this as well, but I don't want to jeopardize the possibility of getting COVID-19 in the institution.

## Comments/Closing

Keep your head up. I have the confidence with staff and the population to keep their distance and keep pushing forward. Please get your questions in by Tuesday at 12 noon, I appreciate the questions and the comments.