

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 12/30/2020, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Jess Robb, Family Secretary
- Ann Wise, CPPC
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- April Chavis, LFC Member
- Sara McKinley, LFC Member
- Kerri Bailey, LFC Member
- Bryannah Johnson, LFC Member
- Mildred Hawthorne, LFC Member
- Doug Smith, LFC Member
- Maria Ruelas, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Donna Jaramillo, Family Secretary
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC Member
- Juanita Rodriguez, LFC Member
- Stephanie Colunga, LFC Member
- Julianne Presson, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, LFC Member
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Holli Wessels, LFC Member
- Connie Myers, LFC Member
- Valerie Smith, LFC Member
- Kandie Mulitauaoepele, LFC Member

If you would like your friend/family member/loved one to be a part of the Local Family Council, please have them write to Jess Robb at the following email address:

Jessica.robb@doc1.wa.gov

or

Jess Robb, Facility Secretary
Airway Heights Corrections Center
PO Box 1899
Airway Heights, WA 99001

To be part of the Local Family Council, one must be on the Incarcerated Individual's approved visitation list, and "any approved visitor in good standing may attend" (policy 530.155). If one is not on the inmate's visitation list and wishes to fill out an application to become a visitor please, go to the following website:

<https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/visiting/prison-visits.htm>

- Questions need to be submitted to Ms. Robb by noon on Tuesday before the meeting. Please keep your questions, pre-submitted and during the call, to COVID-19 related topics.
- Please keep each question concrete and specific via bullet statements.

Weekly Update from Superintendent Key

- We are switching to Microsoft Teams for a better security feature. We have come across our number being given out to other individuals outside of LFC. We are asking that no one forwards this out, and we will continue to go through the check-in process to make sure that only authorized persons are on the calls.
- We have administered a total of 9881 tests in staff serial testing. We've had 91 staff test positive, and 439 tests are currently pending. We have administered 43 rapid tests to get staff back when it is safe. We've had a total of 185 staff test positive from outside and serial testing. There are currently 60 active positive staff out and 125 of those have recovered. There are 90 staff currently mapped/screened out.

- To date we've had 1496 I/I test positive. Of those, 660 have recovered. Currently there are 836 positive I/I. Since yesterday we had 1 positive test and have over 400 tests pending.
- There are a total of 1295 I/I on isolation.
 - RCF- 17
 - L Unit- 258 (asymptomatic)
 - M Unit- 250 (asymptomatic)
 - N Unit- 88
 - R unit B Side- 124
 - T unit – 257 (asymptomatic)
 - IPU - 2
 - Segregation – 8
 - MSU - 288
 - Hospital watch - 2
- There are a total of I/I on quarantine.
 - K unit – 220
 - N unit - 59
 - R unit A side - 61
 - Segregation - 3
 - EFV's - 10
 - MSU – 12
- There are a total of 660 I/I who are recovered.
 - RCF – 10
 - Recreation – 141
 - Lincoln – 248
 - Mary – 238
 - R Unit – 9
 - SMU - 14
- We are moving positive to units to where they can recover. Our moves have lessened due to the number of positives. M, L, T in the MAIN are getting regular dayroom access.
- MSU received 18 grievances: these have to do with mask wearing, cleaning supplies, DOC responsible for COVID outbreak, PPE, and bringing MSU I/I to the MAIN. There were 68 grievances in the MAIN: these were about medical, lack of exercise in the unit, possibility getting COVID a second time, showers, testing processes, property issues, and deductions on stimulus checks. As grievances come in, we are hitting those areas hard before we even answer the grievance. Our QA team is going out and looking at each area when a grievance is received.
- JPay was on site yesterday to complete the survey for WIFI in the gym and visiting area. They went to R unit and replaced the WAP and replaced a handset on R-B unit.
- I got confirmation as of 11 AM that all of the holiday boxes have been sent to the units.
- I got a response back from HQ about the ROI forms. In the same area the I/I has access to kites and other materials, we will be placing blank ROI forms for the incarcerated to fill out. The request to download these forms and have them sent in was denied by HQ.
- We've added 2 more phones to R unit on the quarantine side. We are buying extras batteries this week. Hopefully we will be getting those by tomorrow or Monday.
- Thank you for the supportive emails we have received.
- The I/I in the gym made a handmade Christmas card for the SGT and custody staff thanking them for their efforts and what they do.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

In accordance with the Washington State Department of Corrections COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline, Version 22 Updated 11/03/2020 how many Rapid Influenza tests have been performed on the Individual Incarcerated between October 2020 to March 2020?

Answer

From March – May 2020, we administered 35 influenza tests. Flu season was over in May as there were no new cases.

Question

How many of those tests have come back positive for Influenza?

Answer

None came back positive.

Question

In accordance with above referenced DOC guidelines for testing of all the Individual Incarcerated who tested negative for both the COVID-19 and rapid Influenza during influenza season (October 2020 through March 2020) how many viral respiratory panel {Interpath # 2910} tests were completed along with the second COVID-19 test?

Answer

We do not have the answer to that. We obtained the COVID and influenza specimen at the same time.

Question

If you are unable to answer any of the questions listed above, should I call the Department of Corrections COVID medical duty officer?

Answer

If you have questions, we can forward them to medical.

Question

Are the fellows getting any type of mental health care suggestions, counseling, or other form of self-care help during the outbreak?

Answer

Medical health consistently conducts rounds. We are unable to do traditional therapy given the environmental limitations. But they are checking on folks, coordinating mental health, and giving handouts to help them cope.

Question

Has it been determined why Airway Heights has so many more Covid cases than other facilities?

Answer

Once it gets in, it spreads around. We've had more asymptomatic than symptomatic. We do not have the specific source of how it came in.

Question

Will the Covid test results (paper form) be corrected to reflect the actual day of collection and day of results?

Answer

This was due to the testing labs computer system not being able to read the barcode. Consequently, we had to re-do the requisition. These have since been corrected. If someone wants the corrected form they will need to kite medical.

Question

Are there any individuals who tested negative or who are on quarantine in MSU C5 or C4? If so, which tiers are housing these individuals? Which tiers are positive tiers in each building?

Answer

C4 is all positive and on isolation except F tier, which has 12 I/I who are still on quarantine. C5 is on isolation and all the I/I there are currently positive and asymptomatic. We have a couple proposals to HQ to try to get more time out for C5 since they are all asymptomatic. We have cohorting schedules for both units for phone use and fresh air.

Question

How has the passing of Senate Bill 5433 being provided through JPay's Lantern Program at Airway Heights?

Answer

The Lantern program is JPay's education program and is not available in WA at this time.

Question

When will the implementation of using Zoom for Video Call Visits be starting at Airway Heights Correctional Facility as was mentioned in the in one of the IITS memos as a possibility?

Answer

There is no conversation about using Zoom for video visit calls to family/friends. That would bypass the JPay system and would have to be facilitated in a staff office on a staff computer. If you have a specific memo we can look into that.

Question

How many COVID-19 Incarcerated Individuals that were transferred to the Regional Care Facility at Airway Heights Correctional Facility have been transferred back to their parent facility?

Answer

153

Question

Can you please provide the nutritional breakdown {calories, proteins etc.} for December 2020 holiday meals {both days}?

Answer

The calories were calculated for all 3 meals served on 12.25.2020 at AHCC and totaled 3900.

Question

Do you have to pick holiday meals from a pre-set list of foods catalogue or the likes? If so, is that available on the DOC website and if so can you provide the exact site address for that?

Answer

No, all DOC facilities follow pre-determined menus for the 3 mainline special meals, under normal operating conditions. These are developed by Food Service Administration and not calculated into the Mainline Menu Nutritional Analysis Report.

Question

Are I/I who are coming from the gym working in the kitchen with dirty clothes on?

Answer

No, laundry is coming 2-3 times a week. These issues have been resolved.

Question

Has the Governor sent any additional resources to help out the staff at Airway Heights Correctional Facility?

Answer

We do not go to the Governor. We go to HQ through the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). We've received CCD (Community Corrections Division) staff who have helped out in CI and other custody staff from institutions all around the state.

Question

Is there anyone who we can reach out to in the hopes of getting you assistance from the National Guard?

Answer

This has been answered in previous meetings. The Governor is the only one who can deploy the National Guard. Right now there is not a need for the National Guard.

Question

I/I in the gym are not getting the same treatment as those in the units. They receive only 1 bottle of water a day and they don't have their property. When will there be any transition for them?

Answer

The direction given in the gym is to give out 2 bottles of water at lunch and two at dinner. We cannot let them have all of their property based on space and availability. We are working on plans in the coming weeks to get them back in the same custody level or unit they came from. This will take approval from HQ.

Question

What is being done to meet the spiritual needs of inmates in the gym?

Answer

This was answered on the 12/16 notes. "Due to the current outbreak and the fact that the religious coordinator is out on leave, these services are not offered at this time." We are putting pamphlets and religious materials out in the units. We are hoping to get our religious coordinator back soon.

Question

Has the laundry situation been resolved in the gym? How many changes of clothes do I/I get each week?

Answer

They get clean laundry in twice a week. Sweatpants, and a cart of miscellaneous state issued clothing items were given to that area. If they need an item from their regular property, they need to kite the Sgt.

Follow-up Question from 12/23

May you guide me to whom I can speak where the protocol of how you will manage those who tested positive, and you continue to bring in more COVID positive individuals in the same area, when will they be released?

Answer

I am not sure and medical is not here this week. I will check with medical.

- **Update from Medical: Minimum Isolation period is 14 days as long as they have no symptoms. When someone is COVID positive, and they have been on a tier and we introduce another positive it does not increase the original person's time because they cannot be re-infected. An individual is considered recovered when they have been asymptomatic for 14 days.**

Additional Questions

Question

Now that AHCC has had many inmates testing positive, what would you do differently?

Answer

AHCC and HQ do an after action report after any emergency. This will show things we have done and things we could do differently. HQ has not said they will do this, but they do that for each emergency.

Question

Would it be possible to contact Secretary Sinclair, DOC and CDC, and let them know that moving all these inmates was not the best decision?

Answer

We followed the protocols that are in place. Once we were made aware, based on testing, that an I/I tested positive who was housed with an I/I who tested negative, they had to be moved.

Question

When will classification reviews begin again?

Answer

These are on-going and take place every day. I probably take 45 minutes out of my day to review release plans. We have a task force that reviews every release case. We work through medical and a social worker to make sure the correct placements are done upon release.

Question

Are staff and offenders going to be vaccinated soon?

Answer

There is phased criteria for giving these out to staff who work directly with COVID positive. We have not had the phase process for the I/I. I anticipate that will come soon. I have heard this will be based on medical acuity.

Question

If an I/I tests positive, will they be receiving the vaccine?

Answer

For the I/I, I do not have the information on that. This is a clinical decision.

Question

I had brought up the exercise in L unit. I noticed the update in the notes. I spoke with many I/I on L unit and they stated that the L unit CUS was walking around giving clarification on this subject. There were many happy individuals from this. Thank you.

Answer

I am watching the units. L unit is asymptomatic. All units are allowed to walk around with 6 foot distance, and they all received exercise packets as well. Thank you for your feedback.

Question

Do you know which day in January the work release transfers will begin?

Answer

I am not sure. I think there was a memo in regards to work release that was sent out. It might be included in that memo.

- **Update: A memo was sent out to the population on 12/28 stating work release transfers would resume January 2021. There is no specific date stated.**

Question

Do you have a number of how many symptomatic I/I there are?

Answer

I do not have this number.

Question

Is there a chance that you could, since DOC is a public entity and we are taxpayers, ask Secretary Sinclair or Mr. Herzog to attend a meeting? Or are you not able to ask him to come to the meeting?

Answer

This is all coordinated by HQ. That will be up to their decision. Mr. Herzog has been on these calls before. There are protocols in place. I will make sure Ms. Perkinson is aware of your request.

Question

Are you going to educate the I/I on options to have their antibodies tested before the vaccination and give them the decision to receive it?

Answer

I have no information on antibody testing of the population. If/when we implement the vaccines for I/I, I know there will be educational memos sent out to the population. With any medical procedure, an I/I has the right to refuse that.

Question

L unit is asymptomatic. My son is in that unit and has been fainting and having chest pains and pressure. Was he supposed to be moved to a different unit?

Answer

I am not familiar with this specific case. He can go to any staff member letting them know he doesn't feel well. Medical goes through the unit each day and does wellness checks. He can speak with them about those issues as well.

Question

With there being so many recovered I/I, and with them returning to work, is there an ETA on when the hot meals will resume? Many units are still getting their meals frozen.

Answer

As of late last week, we are not using frozen meals anymore. The hot meal will be lunch, and 2 cold meals will be delivered at dinner time (breakfast and dinner). We verified those meals weren't working out well. This change should help bring consistency back to the units. This was the same process we used early on with COVID.

Question

You stated that nurses are going to every tier. Are they actually recording the temperatures on the I/I medical record?

Answer

They are monitoring this. I am not sure what the documentation looks like. We will look into this.

Question

As everything starts to clear up and more negatives happen, is there a plan for bio cleaning to come in?

Answer

We have been cleaning for the last 10 months. When a cell move is done and I/I moves out, we have a cleaning process to wipe down the entirety of the cell. Porters are still going and cleaning the dayrooms and bathrooms with hepastat.

Question

With there being only 200 I/I that are symptomatic, has this specific information been given to the DOH with the worry of the new strain coming in?

Answer

All of our positives are reported to HQ who works with the DOH. As previously discussed, the ratio of symptomatic I/I has been low.

Question

Do you know when the store will be increased to its regular amount?

Answer

I know it's been reduced, but I'm not sure when it will go back to the regular amount.

- **Update from CI: These prices will revert back January 11, 2021.**

Question

How often do you have meetings with Secretary Sinclair?

Answer

I have not had any meetings with him regarding COVID. We have had one-on-one check-ins.

Question

I understand they are not getting the frozen dinners anymore. The issue is frozen jelly, and the cold meals are getting to the units partly frozen.

Answer

We will look into this for next week.

- **Update from CI Kitchen Manager: On Sunday 12/27/2020 the dinner meal consisted of a new Frozen Tray meal. Unfortunately, it was discovered at the time the meals were to be delivered, that the new trays with Humus and frozen vegetables require longer thaw times than the normal frozen tray lunches Food Service has previously used. Wherein the meals in the center of the pallets were still partially frozen. In the future Food Services will bring in the new trays two days prior to the normal delivery date and separate the pallets. In addition, we will open up the boxes to allow air flow to accelerate the thawing process.**

Question

What is the proper protocol for laundry in the camp? They are only receiving clean clothes maybe once a week.

Answer

I know laundry is coming through being swapped out a couple times a week. I'll look into this.

Question

I would ask you to elaborate on the spiritual needs of the I/I. What could be done to provide a quiet space for prayer for those in the gym?

Answer

Hopefully in the next 2 or 3 weeks, we will find places to put these individuals back into units if approved by HQ. This is a tough time for religious programming. I will continue to send out religious materials and to see when our religious coordinator will return.

Comments/Closing

We're making some progress as you can see by the numbers and the protocols we are implementing. Our moves have significantly been reduced. Our goal is to move individuals back into units based on their classifications. I appreciate your time and questions. Please have questions into Ms. Robb by Tuesday at 12. Have a good new year, be safe and continue to wear your mask and social distance.