

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 2/3/2021, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Jess Robb, Family Secretary
- Ellen Hargrove, Family Secretary
- Jill Murphy, LFC Member
- Donna Jaramillo, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- April Chavis, LFC Member
- Bryenna Johnson, LFC Member
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC Member
- Julianne Presson, LFC Member
- Stephanie Colunga, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Sara Mckinley, LFC Member
- Juanita Rodriguez, 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.rob@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

- Numbers as of 1PM per the website:
 - AHCC new positive cases in the last 30 days – 238
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1670
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 209
 - AHCC I/I deaths – We have three, the website shows two, but should be updated later today.
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 6
- We had 16 grievances in the MAIN regarding: priority for vaccine, denied surgical mask, positive and negative I/I being housed together, two to a table in dayroom, and grieving an extra salt packet. There were 10 grievances in the MSU regarding: work release, Chemical Dependency (CD) hold, and CI payment issues.
- Current Non-Active/Recovered units are L, M, T, and RB. Quarantine and Isolation units are RA, K, and N.

- We will send out the information regarding COVID vaccines tonight. It was given to the population today. We have also sent LFC Members information regarding the stimulus cards, IRS information and forms.
- I have been out and about walking the areas. I have seen good compliance for social distancing and masks for both I/I and staff. Our QA teams have been out checking all areas. MSU is doing very well and they appreciate yard and grab-and-go. We will continue to have individuals out enforcing masks mandates, and social distancing. I have seen an uptick of positivity in the last week.
- The incarcerated tone overall is better. The non-active recovered units are enjoying yard and grab-and-go meals. We will continue to talk to the population and be visible. We are getting more staff back and this has helped the tone greatly. We are still not over this, but the numbers provide hope for both I/I and staff. Any sort of hope we give is a good step forward.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

Is there an update on the status of those that have still not yet received the stipend?

Answer

Every I/I who was reported to banking to receive the stipend has been paid. For those who worked and were paid less than \$30, they will receive the balance today (2/3/21) to bring them up to \$30.

Question

Have any of the staff or incarcerated gotten the vaccine?

Answer

As we've talked about, some of the staff have gotten two rounds of shots. Vaccine information for the I/I will be sent out to LFC members today.

Question

Do you know roughly how long it will be until everyone is moved back to their original housing assignments?

Answer

No we don't. We have been able to move some back already. This is a capacity issue. Once we get closer to a new normal, and fewer positives we will move people back to their units. I can't guarantee they will go back to their original cell with the same cell mate.

Question

It seems like most of the I/I have tested positive and healed, or are on a positive road to healing. Does that mean the facility will start to get back to a more normal open dayroom, yard, chow, etc. schedule?

Answer

Yes, the non-active recovered units have access to yard and are going to chow hall to pick up meals. As we get closer to the new normal we will look at programming. This is all a phased process.

Question

Has anyone at the facility, both staff and incarcerated, tested positive, healed, then shown symptoms again after the shedding period?

Answer

We haven't had any cases of someone clearing COVID and then getting it again. We do have some I/I who had many health complications before COVID and then having prolonged symptoms after they had COVID. We do a second test on these individuals before they are cleared out of isolation.

Question

When staff test positive, heal, then come back to work, do they ever get tested again?

Answer

This was answered on the 12/23 notes. "No. The current directives from DOC Headquarters is to not test anyone who has ever tested positive." That information is currently still accurate.

Question

Are staff and those that have tested negative still getting tested weekly?

Answer

Absolutely. We are still doing serial testing for those who have tested negative.

Additional Questions

Question

We got the information about the impact cards. What about the guys who still have a long sentence?

Answer

HQ is still working with the Attorneys General (AG's) office on how we will work with these. There will be more information on this in the future.

Question

Do you know when the magazine for the food packages will be out?

Answer

We will look into this.

- **Update: Next Quarterly Package Program begins 3/1/21.**

Question

My husband and I do our video visits in the evening 9:30-10 PM. For the last 5 or 6 visits, staff have asked if we mind if they turn off the lights during the visits. My husband appreciates being asked those questions. Those little things like that are respectful.

Answer

Thank you for your feedback. We love to hear about those things.

Question

Can you tell us anything about the person that passed away? Is there danger to other I/Is?

Answer

I can't go into specifics about the individual. I don't know about any danger regarding other individuals.

Question

Do you know when the gym will be opening again? Is that for both gyms?

Answer

We do have some I/I in the gym and capacity issues with them being recovered. We are moving them out as beds become available. We are only housing individuals in the MAIN gym. There are no I/I in the MSU gym. MSU is getting yard and dayroom use and are no longer on restricted movement.

Question

In regards to the memos about the IRS and stimulus cards, can we send the 1040s to our loved ones? Or does that have to be requested at the facility?

Answer

We sent the instructions and the forms out to each unit. Those are available in the dayroom and are being put in cells. You can send them in, but they do have the forms in the unit readily available. There are forms for seniors and regular filing.

Question

I know you had plans for making up the Christmas dinner. Is this still going to happen?

Answer

This will have to be after the COVID outbreak. We still plan to do this once we get to that point.

Question

Does the whole facility have to be 100 recovered before programming and classes begin?

Answer

I would say yes, because every area has to be open. We also have to look at capacity of how many individuals can be in a room.

Comment

I just wanted to thank you very much for helping and understanding that we are going through a lot. Mental health staff and other staff have encouraged my son and told him to hang on and things are getting better. He is so thankful to have yard.

Answer

I appreciate the comment.

Question

You mentioned earlier there were grievances regarding two to a table, but four-man cells are still being utilized. In the dayroom they have to sit two to a table. Will that be changing soon?

Answer

Based on last Wednesday, we did more research on this. There are four-man cells in the non-active recovered units (I, M, T, and RB). There aren't four-man cells in a quarantine or isolation units (RA, K, and N). This is a clarification. I misspoke last week. I/I in recovered units can use the dayroom as far as upper and lower tiers. The dayroom rules are still two to a table.

Question

I/I in MA top tier are not getting their full time out. They are getting 15 minutes and then being told to get back to their cells. This happened Monday night. This has been happening a lot lately.

Answer

We will look into this. Sometimes based on emergencies in the institution this could cause this.

- **Update: We spoke with the unit officers and they stated the I/I are getting 45 min out and knew nothing about it being closed early. We will continue to monitor this.**

Question

Have you heard anything about work release (WR)?

Answer

I don't have any more information about this. That information will come from HQ, and you will get a copy once that gets to the population.

- **Update: There has been a pause in WR transfers. HQ is working on a process this week to safely make these happen.**

Question

My husband falls in the category of having prolonged symptoms. Medical has been on top of everything. For individuals who are not contagious, but have lingering symptoms, are there plans if that continues?

Answer

At this point, it is more symptom management and responding to treatment. The same thing that is happening here is happening in the community. People are having long terms symptoms. Unless there is specific guidance, we will just base our decisions off the symptoms that the individual has.

Comments/Closing

I appreciate your time. Please have your questions in to Ms. Robb by 12 on Tuesday. We will talk to you again next Wednesday. Thank you for your time.