

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 2/10/2021, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Jess Robb, Family Secretary
- Ellen Hargrove, Family Secretary
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Donna Jaramillo, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- April Chavis, LFC Member
- Bryenna Johnson, LFC Member
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Justin Gudvangen, RN4
- Gheorghe Turcin, Family Services
- Yoshi Garcia, LFC Member
- Mildred Hawthorne, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Michelle Mason, LFC Member
- Julianne Presson, 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.robbs@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 – 181
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1671
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 210
 - AHCC I/I deaths – 5
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 6
- We had ten grievances in the MAIN regarding: K unit being on isolation, Nora unit being on isolation, movement based on isolation/quarantine, COVID testing, and staff not wearing PPE. The MSU had eight grievances regarding: mail rejections, having to wear masks while exercising, and the testing process.
- There was a question about JPay video visit cancellations this week. We spoke with the JPay liaison. While we had folks in the gym during count times they were going to L and M unit to reactivate their

JPay players. This was the cause of some of those video visits being cancelled out. There are no longer I/I in the gym so this will no longer be happening.

- JPay will be here Thursday Feb 11th for the site survey to see where the Wi-Fi access points could be.
- Chemical Dependency (CD) staff are getting packets out to the I/I and scheduling assessments for non-active/recovered units.
- We sent out the 1040 tax and stimulus forms to the population and the tier reps.
- This week we have worked on putting back together the gym and the education area after they were used as an alternative housing area. We are hopeful to start utilizing these spaces again.
- I did walkabouts myself of the facility and spoke with I/I and staff. I saw good compliance with the MSU and the tone overall was good. Their biggest issue is having to wear their mask while exercising. We are working on getting the MSU gym open. The tone in the MAIN is getting better. Yard and grab-and-go are a big deal. We are working to get program areas up and going as well. The challenge we face is programming by cohort. This means only individuals from one unit can be around each other. If someone is positive, we know exactly the cohort they came from for isolation/quarantine purposes.
- We are continually doing quality assurance checks. I saw some staff and I/I who I have corrected. I am continuing to remind individuals to social distance and wear their mask.
- Our current cleared units are L, M, NB, R, T, C4 and C5. We are working to get K unit cleared, hopefully today. NA is on quarantine.
- On the DOC COVID website there have been additions added on the LFC calls and definitions. There is also a FAQs area.

Update from Justin Gudvangen RN4

- The health status of the facility is on the resolution side. Things are starting to go back to normal. We are moving in a positive direction. Most of the population has recovered. Currently WA State has a tiered vaccination program. The I/I are being handled as they would be in the community. Currently we are in Phase 1b, which is individuals who are over 65. We have a plan in place to distribute the vaccine but this is dependent on the availability. We do not get all the vaccines at one time. Our current priorities are I/I over 65 who have not gotten COVID. If someone has it, they have an immunity for a period of time. We will continue to look at individuals over 65 who have been recovered for the longest amount of time after those who have not had COVID. I am hoping in the next couple weeks we'll have more I/I vaccinated.

Update from Associate Superintendent Heinrich

- We are going to be facilitating tier rep meetings twice monthly. We feel the need is to facilitate meetings two times monthly to ensure the population is heard and to learn what is and is not working. In person meetings are happening in the MSU. Microsoft Teams meetings will be conducted for the MAIN. Last month we called each unit with the CUS and tier reps.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

Could we get an explanation on why incarcerated have to wear their masks during video visits, even when there is no one using the dayroom?

Answer

The criteria says anytime you are not eating, taking medication etc. you must have your mask on. This is part of the statewide guidelines. Even if someone is not immediately by you, COVID is spread primarily through droplets. For example, if someone doing a video visit and doesn't have their mask on, they could contaminate that area and if someone immediately does a visit after they could contract it.

Question

Why have 85-90% of our visiting time slots been taken away? JPay says it's not on their end and that DOC has removed time slots.

Answer

Part of this is from the I/I in the gym going back to L and M units to update their JPay players. We have moved all I/I out of the gym.

Question

Why are they calling workers unit by unit, as to not mix the units during movements, but when they are at work they are all mixed together and not socially distanced?

Answer

The work areas are working through cohort schedules so we can keep track in case an individual comes up positive.

Question

A counselor in the K-Unit, while conducting reviews, informed three I/I that K-Unit will be going back to senior status. Is this true, and if so, why and when was this decision made?

Answer

K unit right now is still an isolation unit. When we go back to the new normal, K unit will still be a senior living unit but will not be a protected unit.

Question

For those that have not received notification of a second stimulus payment, but know they are eligible, do they fill out the 1040 form? Will the facility be providing IRS form instructions?

Answer

We have sent instructions and 1040 forms to the population. This information is available in the dayrooms and with the tier reps.

Question

Is the facility aware of mold in the breakfast boat?

Answer

The kitchen has been notified and they are looking into this.

Additional Questions

Question

If an I/I already knows that they qualify for the second stimulus payment, and it has already been sent out, but the I/I has received no notification that their card is here, do they still fill out a 1040 form?

Answer

I'm not sure if the business office is notifying I/I when the cards come in. We will ask the business office what the procedure is for this.

- **Update: The mailroom informs the incarcerated population when they receive a stimulus card the same way they do when other negotiable instruments are received.**

Question

Are you, the superintendent, required to read the OCO annual report for 2020?

Answer

I met with OCO yesterday and was given a copy.

Question

How come the I/I were on lockdown today?

Answer

We had a two medical emergencies this morning as well as place safety muster.

Question

The OCO report was published in November. So you are not aware of the recommendations the OCO provided since you just got it yesterday?

Answer

I communicate with the OCO for any investigations they are involved in. I plan on looking at the report soon.

Question

There were visiting guidelines/rules posted in L unit today. Have these been changed or were these a reminder?

Answer

I'm unaware of any posting that went out today. I'll look into this but I am not aware of any rule changes that took place.

- **Update: After speaking with the tier reps they reported the last thing posted about visiting was the Safe Start Visitation Update memo from January 20, 2021 which stated "DOC will revisit our Safe Start Visitation plan again on March 16, 2021, to determine if it is appropriate to move forward at this time."**

Question

There have been five deaths at AHCC. Will the inmates ever get that information and the names shared with them?

Answer

No. We sent a communication to the population that was approved by HQ. We do not give out names.

Question

Prior to COVID 19, they used to post something on the unit and they would have a memorial. Or did I misunderstand?

Answer

We have not posted anything in the units for the population.

Question

Since there is no known length of immunity after an individual has had COVID, why are COs not tested after they have tested positive? With there being three different variants, I don't understand.

Answer

This has been the clinical decision at HQ. This guidance hasn't changed and we continue to remind HQ about this.

Question

Do you know when hot breakfast will be implemented?

Answer

There are discussions happening this week in this regard. We will ask for an update on this.

- **Update: There is no firm date yet. However, conversations are occurring at HQ.**

Question

Many of the I/I are struggling getting legislation information. Could we get a binder made for them like at CRCC as well as the OCO report added to that?

Answer

We will contact CRCC and see what they have done.

- **Update: CRCC states they have no knowledge of providing a legislative binder.**

Question

Bottled water has stopped being given out. Are they still supposed to be receiving this?

Answer

The units that are recovered have access to water and ice machines. I will check and see if the isolation units (K and NA) are still getting bottled water.

Question

If a unit is cleared, but water is still being delivered, are I/I not allowed to have bottled water?

Answer

Those recovered units have normal dayroom access to get water and ice. I will check into bottled water.

- **Update: Once a living unit is cleared, there should not be bottled water ordered or delivered to that unit. Nora unit and the RCF are the only living areas not cleared.**

Question

Once you read through the OCO report, will you be listing the recommendations you will implement and the ones you are not?

Answer

This is directed at HQ. If HQ directs us to do so, then we will do that. Some issues have already had resolution and change has been implemented.

Question

Is it documented on paper?

Answer

It is a communication with OCO in conjunction with HQ.

Question

With everything being so unknown, is there any plan for if people start showing new symptoms so that it doesn't hit as hard as this time?

Answer

With the two variants that we have in the country, the vaccines are showing effectiveness against both of those strains. The one we are using, Moderna, is 95% effective. When the mutation takes place between individuals that's how the variant is created. We have learned a lot from this situation to what works well and what doesn't. There are always ways to improve.

Question

Is the endgame to have each staff and I/I vaccinated?

Answer

It would be to have every person offered the vaccine. People have the right to refuse it as well. Each person vaccinated causes less exposure and fewer variants to be able to spread.

Question

I know the LFC policy states that tier reps with the approval of the superintendent can join the LFC meetings. Could an LFC member attend the tier rep meetings?

Answer

When we go back to in-person meetings we will look at having I/I be a part of the LFC meetings.

- **Update: Per policy it states the LFC's "may include incarcerated individuals".**

Question

Could they join over the phone?

Answer

No they can't.

Question

If we found another facility that is currently including the tier reps in the LFC meetings, could we look at that?

Answer

Based on my information, I am not aware of any other facilities doing this. If you want to bring this up to your State Council Representative, Ms. Bisbee, she could take it up at the statewide level.

Question

Once someone is vaccinated they are no longer able to spread the virus, but it is my understanding it just lessens the symptoms. Of all the staff who have been tested, have their tests been checked for which variant they show positive for?

Answer

I did ask about that. DOH provides us the testing supplies, lab, and the means to run the tests. DOH has a surveillance and monitoring program for reasonable suspicion and random tests that they run through their labs to test genotypes and variants. I have not been informed that we have had a variant.

Question

Do you know the percentage they pick out?

Answer

No, they did not tell me the rate or how many.

Question

Do you know who the point of contact at DOH is for DOC?

Answer

I'm not sure. This is done through HQ. You can send an email to the COVID box on the DOC website and they can direct it as well.

Question

I am wondering with programming and classes being put on hold, have any releases been pushed out due to them not being able to do court ordered programming?

Answer

The two court mandated programs we are looking at is SOTP and CD. They have been sending homework out and some classes have been happening. We are in the process of doing virtual hearings on an individual basis.

- **Update: CD and Education classes start in the MSU this week.**

Question

Are individuals' yearly reviews happening on schedule?

Answer

Classification reviews are taking place. I am not sure how far behind schedule we are. We are still doing FRMTs (Facility Risk Management Team).

Question

Who at HQ would you order a central file from?

Answer

Records at HQ.

Comments/Closing

I will be out walking the facility in the MAIN and MSU. The QA processes are taking place. We are working on all sides of social distancing and mask wearing. We are not out of the woods but we are making good progress. Happy to have the call today. Get questions in by 12 on Tuesday. Appreciate your time.