

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 3/24/2021, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Jeremy Barclay, HQ
- Jess Robb, Facility Secretary
- Ellen Hargrove, Family Secretary
- April Chavis, LFC Member
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Donna Jaramillo, LFC Member
- Beth Ann Daigre, LFC Member
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Caitlin Roberston, OCO
- Holli Wessels, LFC Member
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Michelle Mason, 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 the 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

- **On all future COVID calls we will only be answering COVID related questions.**
- Numbers as of 1PM per the website:
 - AHCC new positive cases in the last 30 days – 0
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1671
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 215
 - AHCC I/I deaths – 5
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 0
- Vaccine administered to both I/I and staff:
 - AHCC Initiating Vaccination Administered – 1,111
 - AHCC Second Vaccination Administered – 402
 - Total Vaccines Administered at AHCC – 1513
- Information came out that the population have the option to wear a well fitted cloth mask over their surgical mask.

- Effective June 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 we will be doing a bi-monthly food package pilot through Union Supply Group. This approval allows the incarcerated population one (1) package in a two-month period, then another package in the next two months. This will allow you to receive as many as six (6) packages in a twelve-month period.
- JPay was on site yesterday (3/23/21) and inspected keyboards, terminals, checked monitors and connections. On 3/5 they fixed a broken handset in C5 and NA, camera had no picture in TA, broken USB cord on and camera lowered on TB and KB broken handset was fixed. We are waiting for JPay to fix NB USB plug and a broken keyboard on KB.
- There was one COVID related grievance in the MSU for not being allowed to wear two masks. We had four grievances from the MAIN: staff not social distancing, needing a new mask, and being exposed to COVID.
- DNR, some education, Parenting Inside Out (PIO), CD, and some religious activities are taking place at the MSU. On 3/29/21 education, CD, and SOTP will be looking at doing groups by cohort.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

At the 3/05/21 SFC Covid-19 Informational Call an update stated: "Arminda Miller followed up that individuals may wear their face covering in addition to the required surgical mask (i.e., "double masking") and shall not be infraacted for it." Is double masking allowed at this time?

Answer

Yes. This has gone out to the population. I/I can wear a paper mask underneath and another face covering over it.

Question

I would like to see the I/I population have multivitamins available for them to purchase, especially Vitamin D3.

Answer

These are available to purchase off store.

Question

Are transfers from other facilities to Airway Heights currently happening?

Answer

Yes. We are getting them through WCC. They go through a 10-day quarantine before they arrive at AHCC or if not, they go through it once they arrive here.

Question

With vaccine appointments being opened up to all those 65 and over out in the public, will that open them up to all incarcerated that are 65 and over also?

Answer

Information came out from HQ and the Assistant Secretary that talks about the schedule and how it relates to the Governor's criteria and how DOC is working with that.

Additional Questions

Question

I was wondering what the status of the clothing exchange was.

Answer

This began on March 19th.

Question

The ice machine in K unit is an ongoing issue. They never got their ice machines upgraded when the other units did. There have been many days that they are out of ice and they have no water tap on their ice machine. They have been told not to get water out of the sinks due to the cleaner.

Answer

We will check to see if the ice is keeping up with the usage in the unit. We do not replace these until it is unrepairable. There is water available in the unit. I will look into this.

- **Update: There are signs and expectations that people don't fill up entire pitchers of ice as they are supposed to fill up only a cup at a time. They tear down the signs and fill-up entire pitchers. One ice machine per side can't mathematically keep up with an entire pod of individuals filling up pitchers with ice.**

Question

You spoke about a pandemic plan when these COVID calls first started. Is AHCC working off a pandemic plan now?

Answer

I stated we had a pandemic plan for flu and isolation and quarantine. We followed that plan until we received clinical direction from HQ. We are not in outbreak status right now. If we had an outbreak, we follow clinical direction.

Question

You say you are not in outbreak status. If there is another outbreak, do you have a pandemic plan in place to follow?

Answer

We have a plan in place if we are in outbreak status again.

Question

Have you heard anything new about when they are going to organize visiting again?

Answer

Safe start at HQ is working on this. The barriers are being put up in the MAIN and MSU. We are looking at cohort schedules, but we do not have a date for this.

Question

Are you able to verify how many employees have been vaccinated?

Answer

The information given out in these calls is what is on the website. There was a request at the last meeting to differentiate the numbers, but we have not heard back yet from HQ on this.

Question

How can they go about getting new clothing instead of used?

Answer

Our property room has both new and used clothing. They distribute what they have by sizing availability. Clothing exchange is done by cohort by unit. This process won't be as quick as it used to be.

Question

The tents that you had up, are these still up at the facility? Will these be used for overflow for visitation?

Answer

The tents are still up. These were purchased by HQ. There is no plan to use these for visiting. We are doing quality assurance checks on them in case they are needed in the future.

Question

How many I/I ended up being moved out to the tents? Are there any left in there?

Answer

There were no I/I moved to the tents.

Question

For clarification, you stated the tents were purchased by HQ. Do you know where?

Answer

I am not sure.

Question

Will the RCF be staying open to take in positives from other facilities?

Answer

Based on the information coming in, we are doing a soft closure. It physically will stay up if needed, but the staff will be placed elsewhere.

Question

Are all of the COs or I/I who have received the vaccine still being required to wear masks?

Answer

Yes, the protocols are that masks and social distancing are still required. Cohorting in units and programming areas is still required.

Question

Have any staff or I/I been infracted for not wearing their mask after being vaccinated?

Answer

Not that I'm aware of.

Question

Are they going to have more night yard soon?

Answer

I will be looking into this. With cohort and 24-hour movement schedule this is difficult. I will speak with our group working on this.

- **Update from REC: First evening yard opens on April 7th and the second evening yard opens on May 18th.**

Question

I am trying to understand the infractions with the I/I not wearing their masks. Did this come from HQ or the facility?

Answer

This is coming from both. We have to follow the Washington Administrative Code (WAC)s. If there was one written here it has not come to my level. Most individuals are complying. Based on my last walkabout, I saw social distancing and was impressed with protocols being followed by the population.

Question

The WAC gives the facility authority to follow directions based on not wearing masks?

Answer

There is a WAC for failure to follow authority or direction.

Question

Do you know which section under the WAC this falls under?

Answer

If you look up the disciplinary policy, it lists the WACs to look up online.

- **Update: WAC 137-28-220; 103**

Question

Now that the state is in Phase 3, will the number of individuals allowed in the yard increase?

Answer

This number was set during COVID. We will see if these can be increased based on being off outbreak and restrictive movement.

- **Update from ICP: Not at this time. This is a HQ decision and we will increase the numbers when directed.**

Question

Is there a memo posted that there could be actions taken if employees are not following mask directives?

Answer

Yes. We've dealt with staff and done corrective action. This has been sporadic. It is getting better with both staff and I/I.

Question

Is there actual documentation sent to the staff?

Answer

There have been memos sent to staff about wearing masks and social distancing. It is a given that corrective action will be taken if this is not followed.

Question

Do you have a target date for when contact recreation sports will open?

Answer

We don't. Safe Start folks are looking into this.

Question

Is there any way we can get someone from the Safe Start group to be on the next COVID meeting?

Answer

I can pass this along to Ms. Perkinson. I know there are other requests for deputy directors to be on this call.

Question

You had stated that you use “used” clothing, is that in the policy?

Answer

We have always used “used” clothing within a certain criterion. It should be in the property/clothing policy.

Question

I’m gathering that when I/I are released, the used clothing is turned back in, and then it’s checked to meet the standards. When they leave, are those clothing items sent back to the warehouse or to a community cupboard?

Answer

The clothing gets washed. They get checked to see if they meet the criteria. The technicalities should be in the property policy.

Question

Could you tell me what religious activities have opened?

Answer

Native American groups have been going out for the last week and a half. We are working on small cohorts. We will add what religious activities are currently happening in the notes.

- **Update from Religious Coordinator: Passover services for the Messianic Jews and Jewish I/I in the MAIN and Jehovah’s Witness services and Christian services in the MSU.**

Question

Will they be allowing I/I to have any services for Passover or Easter?

Answer

I know Religious Coordinator Luce was working on this. We will add this as an update.

- **Update from Religious Coordinator: Yes, they are on callout for Passover services for Jewish and Messianic Judaism in E-Building. MSU will be having Easter services and the MAIN will have Easter weekend services.**

Question

Since DOC purchased those tents, is there any way to have them repurposed for religious groups?

Answer

They are not staying at this facility. We are doing quality assurance testing. What and how they will be used for will be HQ decision.

Question

Do you know if the entire population received two comfort item packages?

Answer

Yes. All the population received these. It was budgeted out of the IIBF.

Question

Does each facility have its own individual IIBF?

Answer

Each facility has their own IIBF as designated by HQ with the funds they receive.

Question

Was there a memo sent out for the quarterly packages? If so, can families receive that?

Answer

The agreement based on the COVID calls is that we would send out only COVID related information to LFC. I will need to get clarification if I can send out other memos out to the LFC as well.

- **Update: We will continue to forward COVID related information to LFC.**

Question

Is there only one tent at Airway Heights?

Answer

I think there are two. We'll check this out and put it in the notes.

- **Update from Maintenance: three tents with ten beds each, one restroom/shower tent, one donning/doffing tent, and one admin tent. Six tents altogether.**

Question

Is HQ DOC on the line, and is the call being recorded?

Answer

Ms. Perkinson is on the line. We do not record these and ask that LFC members do not record these as well.

Question

So you are on your state phones and those are recorded lines? I understand that state phones are open to public disclosure and we could get recordings.

- LFC Member: Isn't it illegal to record these calls?

Answer

I don't know all the rules around this, but the Teams call is not being recorded.

Question

Could you please take into account that the fact that there is no fresh water tap on the ice machine in K unit?

Answer

We will be happy to go out and look at this situation. There is water in the unit. I have not received any kites or grievances regarding these. We will report out on this for the next call.

- **Update from Maintenance: One water dispenser will be installed tomorrow (3/29/21). The other one will be put together this week and hopefully installed by Friday, unless additional parts need to be ordered.**

Question

Are items replaced out of IIBF funds on a continued schedule for replacement or a recommended replacement time?

Answer

When ice machines are not repairable, they are replaced. There is not a schedule for replacing these.

Question

So, they can be in service for 20 years even if they are breaking every other week?

Answer

These are replaced when they cannot be repaired.

Question

Would there be any way to find the model number and date of when the ice machines were put into service?

Answer

I do not have this information.

Question

Are these ordered from CI or an outside vendor?

Answer

They come from an outside vendor. We can find out what brand they are.

- **Update: The brand is Hoshizaki.**

Question

If individuals are experiencing COVID symptoms who had already tested positive before, would you be retesting them?

Answer

Medical is not here, but we would address those issues. I have not heard of that happening here.

- **Update from Medical: If an individual is showing symptoms, they would be tested.**

Question

There was a memo addressed on March 18th that included Phase 1B4 for all staff, volunteers, and correctional facilities. Does that mean after March 31st all I/I in the correctional facility would be eligible to receive this?

Answer

This would come from HQ clinicals. This is also dependent on how many vaccines we receive. I will try to get someone from medical or the vaccination group to be on the next call to answer this.

Comments/Closing

Thank you for the questions. Please have these to Ms. Robb by noon on Tuesday before the call. As I walk the institution talking to staff and I/I, there is hope. This is not over yet and we are doing better. Dr. Heinrich could not be with us today, but she can update us with tier rep meetings next meetings. Be safe.