

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 5/5/2021, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Jess Robb, Facility Secretary
- Juanita Rodriguez, LFC Member
- Valerie and Doug Smith, LFC Members
- Hattie Wolf, LFC Member
- Mildred Hawthorne, LFC Member
- Teresa Golden, LFC Member
- Virginia Chapman, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Jeremy Barclay, HQ
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Christina Current, LFC Member
- Donna Jaramillo, LFC Member
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Kehaulani Walker, 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

- Numbers as of 1:00 PM **per the website:**
 - AHCC new positive cases in the last 30 days – 1
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1672
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 224
 - AHCC I/I deaths – 5
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 0
- Vaccine administered to both I/I and staff:
 - AHCC Initiating Vaccination Administered – 1,115
 - AHCC Second Vaccination Administered – 914
 - Total Vaccines Administered at AHCC – 2029
- We have 2 positive cases out of T unit. We are putting them on quarantine and following/developing protocols. We will be putting some communication regarding this out to the population and you will receive it once it has been sent out.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

I asked previously regarding the cohort schedule for cleaning and Sup. Key's response was continuous cleaning ALL units. Why is N unit still following the 45 mins out then lockdown for 15 minutes to clean? Please provide clarification.

Answer

Part of this appeared to be true. We will be discussing this with our staff, and it will be corrected.

Additional Questions

Question

Are these brand-new positives in T unit? Or have they tested positive in the past?

Answer

This is brand new information to us. I don't have that information, and we are early in the process.

Question

With you stating T unit is on quarantine, will that effect families that are going to be visiting?

Answer

This is early on; I am hoping to run everything else. If T unit is still on quarantine when it gets close to their visit, we will make notification to those visitors. I am hoping to run things as normal as possible with that living unit on quarantine.

Question

I am delighted visiting has opened. If an I/I is assigned to work on a weekday and visitation is during the week will they be allowed to participate in visiting?

Answer

Yes, they will.

Question

Will visiting be opening on time?

Answer

We have every plan to be opening on time. I think there will be bumps in the road, but we have many staff working hard to get this rolling on Sunday, May 9th. I hope it runs smoothly, but I ask everyone to be understanding as this is new to all of us.

Question

My son recently transferred to AHCC. The stimulus check was sent to the AHCC mailroom but I can't get any information on what happened to it? Can you direct me who I can speak to?

Answer

Have your son kite the mailroom and speak with their counselor. You can also write a correspondence to the institution and we will look into to.

Question

Do you know when the evening yard will open up?

Answer

We will look into this.

- **Update from REC: Second Evening yard is slated to open on 5/18/21.**

Question

How do the guys who work all day get yard?

Answer

I don't have the schedule in front of me, but I know the yard is open 7 days a week.

Question

There are two new positives in T unit, but also a new positive in N unit?

Answer

We thought the first person from T Unit was a false positive. They were placed on Isolation in N unit and retested.

Question

Is this coming inbound from other facilities?

Answer

There are protocols in place before transportation. We are still in the early stages of this.

Question

Was the positive on Isolation in N or M?

Answer

Our isolation cells are in N unit, as were our previous protocols.

Question

If you are coming 700 miles round trip, could you ask for more than an hour?

Answer

Per HQ, under this phase there are no exceptions to that rule.

Question

Has there been any talk about EFV's?

Answer

The only thing we have been given direction on is visiting.

Question

How many I/I can be in visiting at 1 time?

Answer

15 in the MAIN and 11 in the MSU.

Question

How is the check-in process going to work when we go in?

Answer

The process is still the same, just not as many individuals. You will go through the metal detector and will be pat searched. All PPE protocols will be followed by both visitors and staff.

Question

Is there any difference in terms of the level of custody if people are accepting vaccines?

Answer

The vaccination process is that two teams are going to two units at a time. Acknowledgement forms were signed by the I/I whether they wanted to receive it or not. These teams go unit to unit, and it will happen the same way for the second vaccination. We had some individuals who did not want it at first but who want to receive it now.

Question

FOTI has been working with DOH and tribal to get some shots to you guys. I know last week DOH was there. FOTI has been working behind the scenes regarding a video that was supposed to be given to the population to be education on the shots.

Answer

I know there is a video that has been put on the TVs that gives the explanation of the shots. This is on a rolling time frame on our system.

- LFC Member: That's new to me. I have not heard of anyone watching this video. We were working with DOH.

Question

Regarding I/I who received their vaccinations between today and tomorrow, is there an adequate supply order for them to get that in the next round?

Answer

Yes, we've gotten enough doses to give one to whoever wants one, including the second dose.

Question

I need clarification on this video. Is this something you just started, or has it been going since you've given the shots?

Answer

I don't know the exact date, but we have been running a video sent to us by HQ.

- LFC Member: They don't have to sign a form stating they have watched the video?
- Supt. Key: The acknowledgment form they sign is whether they want the vaccine or if they don't want the vaccine.

Question

In two weeks, will you be able to tell us whether the positives in T-unit had shots or whether they had COVID previously?

Answer

This is medical information that wouldn't be shared. This would be looked at by clinical staff at HQ.

Question

With the I/I who do want the shots, do you have enough vaccines to provide that to them?

Answer

Absolutely, we have enough for the second one as well.

Question

If we have questions that aren't addressed regarding safe start visiting, can we still call the main number to be transferred for general visiting questions?

Answer

The same visiting rules are in place, and it will be fully staffed with visit staff. You can call the Sgt and ask him on visiting days, or you can submit those questions to us.

Question

I ride the bus there. Is there a restriction where if you arrive early for a visit you aren't allowed to wait on the property?

Answer

No, if you get here early there is a fenced area outside you can wait in.

Associate Heinrich: You can also let us know, and we can inform the visit staff so they are aware of it.

Question

Who makes the decision as far as what time one will be allowed to visit? Was through DOC or AHCC?

Answer

It was through both. We submitted times based on the operations and approved by HQ.

Question

I have a question about T unit. Will the entire T unit be tested?

Answer

In previous protocols that's what we did. We will be meeting with HQ later this afternoon to discuss this.

Question

So, HQ has been notified?

Answer

Yes.

Question

Since they are no longer on a cohort schedule and the full pod was open, I would think everyone would need to get tested?

Answer

We will be getting direction from HQ on this. The unit is on quarantine status not isolation.

Question

So, they were not on cohort status?

Answer

Not in the dayrooms before they went on quarantine. We will be putting in place a cohort schedule now.

Question

So, T-unit was not on cohort before quarantine. Were there individuals working with others in the population? I would think this is an emergent situation and you wouldn't need to wait for HQ so we don't have to endure an outbreak like in the past.

Answer

Prior to quarantine every unit was in a cohort schedule to go all different areas outside their unit. Each unit goes separately to yard, chow, education etc.

Question

Just a minute ago you stated they were not on a cohort.

Answer

Based on quarantine we will be developing dayroom access cohort in the unit. Before today they were on cohort to go to other areas, not the dayrooms.

Question

The unit itself was not cohort inside the unit, but outside of the unit they were on cohort, is that correct?

Answer

Yes, that's correct. Based on the quarantine for the unit, we will now do cohort inside in the unit.

Question

On the approval letter for the visit, it says to please print out verification. If individuals do not have access to a printer could they bring it up on their phone?

Answer

From our understanding it's the expectation that visitors need to find a way to get it accomplished. We need the hard copy.

Question

I just need some clarification. T unit... no one from this tier worked in other areas?

Answer

I/I in T unit work in areas in the institution, but its cohort by unit. For example, CI, one side of a shop could be T unit workers with barriers set up in between, and the other side may be another unit.

Question

Are the employees in T unit on a cohort schedule?

Answer

There is no cohort for staff, they are assigned to their positions.

Question

Have staff in T unit come in contact with staff from other units?

Answer

Yes, coming in and out work they encounter staff around the institution. We're still screening staff, testing them each week, and wearing PPE. All these processes are still in place to help mitigate with staff.

Question

With precautions and testing, staff who previously tested positive, they are not testing again?

Answer

I think that answer depends on the time frame. We will go back and look at the protocols. There are time frames for how long it's been since they had COVID. We will get back to you on this.

- **Update: If a staff has tested positive for COVID over 90 days, they are required to do testing.**

Question

Being that from the beginning there has always been talk about a pandemic plan, since there are two positives you have to get in contact with HQ? Is there not a pandemic plan you should be following?

Answer

This has been asked and answered.

- LFC Member: These are very important questions to me.
- Supt. Key: We are not classified as an outbreak status as of now, this early on. We have protocols in place we are following. I understand people are concerned. I am giving the information I have and walking through it the best we can. We are putting the unit on quarantine as a safeguard for everyone. Hopefully we can get this cleared in the unit. I understand it is concerning and scary for family members.

Question

What about I/I who are being released because of the possession charges being taken off their record, specifically those in T unit, would they still be released?

Answer

We do have a release protocol during the pandemic, and we will look into this.

- **Update: This is a case by case decision.**

Question

Two positives in T were recent. Were they just tested? Is it possible to be a false positive or someone who is still testing positive?

Answer

They thought one person was a false positive and they were put in isolation. The individual was tested again they came back positive.

Question

So, being these are two new positives and you don't know if they are prior positives, how will you keep track of these numbers?

Answer

We will track them through the mapping processes we have and medical has that information. We are still early into this.

Question

You have new people coming in from other facilities, that could possibly be one or both of the new positives?

Answer

I don't have specific information, as far as being transferred in, we have protocols at other institutions before they get transferred.

- LFC Member: My point is that you really might not have control over it, and people are going to get COVID, just like out here no matter how careful we are. I think most people thinking about this logically are getting vaccinated.
- Supt. Key: The biggest mitigation is staff and I/I to get vaccinated, and these are all individual decisions. During the vaccination tasks force we have people educating individuals and answering questions. This is taking place during the clinics.
- LFC Member: I would like to request at these meetings, personal opinions are left to ourselves.
- Supt. Key: That is noted. I am just speaking about what the Governor is asking everyone to do.

Question

At the state COVID meeting it was said that at least 80% of AHCC population had been vaccinated and was the only facility to do face to face information with individuals. For those who didn't get vaccinated, how long is the offer open to get vaccinated?

Answer

I don't have the answer. I wrote it down and I will push forward and look into. This will be up to HQ.

- **Update from Medical: It's open until further notice. The offenders can send a kite requesting the vaccine, and they will be scheduled to receive it.**

Question

I've had both my shots. Will visiting be asking for proof?

Answer

No.

Comments/Closing

We will close today's phone conference. Anything sent to the population on COVID and quarantine will be sent to you. We are not on outbreak status, I wanted to be transparent and let everyone know what's going on. We will work hard to maintain this. Get questions into Jess Tuesday before the next meeting. Be safe and wear your mask. Thank you.