

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 7/14/2021, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Frank Rivera, Associate Superintendent
- Monica Ritter, HQ
- Jess Robb, Facility Secretary
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Family Co-Chair
- Donna Jaramillo, LFC Family Secretary
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Teresa Golden, LFC member
- April Chavez, LFC Member
- Julie Burden, 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 – 0
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1675
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 232
 - AHCC I/I deaths – 4* On June 18, 2021, the number of Airway Heights Corrections Center COVID-19 related deaths were adjusted from five individuals to four individuals based on updated death certificate information.
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 0
- Moderna Vaccine administered to both I/I and staff:
 - AHCC Initiating Vaccination Administered – 1,521
 - AHCC Second Vaccination Administered – 1,362
 - Total Vaccines Administered at AHCC – 2,883
- Johnson and Johnson Vaccines Administered:
 - AHCC – 143
- We are still cohorting three units in the MAIN. These are by custody levels (Medium and MI3). MSU is being cohorted by each unit, C4 and C5.
- We've sent out information for visiting. We are going to three-hour visits at a time.

- Tier Rep meetings are tomorrow 7/15/21.
- I've been walking the facility; things appear to be going well. Morale seems to be good as we are getting programming back and getting back to a semi new normal.
- Do you think three-hour visits will increase visitation?
 - Ms. Burden: For those who are 600-700 miles round trip, no.
 - Ms. Bisbee: I had a concern with it being up to three hours. I know some families who would now be able to visit with three-hour sessions, but they have not for the one hour. My concern is that the hearing issue has not been addressed.
 - Supt. Key: Ms. Bisbee, have you heard anything from the statewide meetings regarding this? We at the facility have not heard anything about a solution for the hearing issues.
 - Ms. Bisbee: At the reentry council meeting on the 8th, J. Roberts said the target date was August 1st for the three-hour visits. They said the barriers would still be up, bottle water and restrooms would still be available, but not vending machines.
 - Supt. Key: Was there anything discussed about modifications for the barriers?
 - Ms. Bisbee: No there was not.
 - Ms. Jaramillo: I visited my husband Sunday. There was a total of three I/I and four visitors, and I could not hear. When I heard we were going to three hours and doing different cohorts, I could not imagine me being there for more than 1 hour. We were sore from being bent over while trying to speak with each other.
 - Ms. Hargrove: We visited Monday. I agree that hearing is almost impossible. I would rather have three one-hour hour visits each week than three hours once a month.
 - Ms. Golden: After an hour your neck is hurting so bad. You are lucky if you can hear anything the other person is saying. Our necks and backs were killing us after an hour.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

In previous COVID notes from when COVID first began, we were told by Monica Cantrell and Associate Heinrich that EFVs that were cancelled last minute would be the first on the list for when EFVs open up again. On the most recent notes it states, "There has been no direction given on this. HQ is reviewing applications, but no process has been sent out. Once EFVs open, we will address that issue." Can we get some clarification?

Answer

Were processing EFV applications. We won't have an answer on who will be allowed first until we get the Safe Start process on how we will re-open EFVs. This has not been sent out from HQ yet.

Additional Questions

Question

There was an officer in K unit, who 24 hours after the I/I got their quarterly packages, went to the different cells, entered the cells, and made notes and threats about them having too much stuff. Multiple I/I got threatened that he would take their property and start writing them up. He went back the next day to see if things had been cleared out. He touches everything in the cells. According to COVID regulations, aren't they supposed to change gloves or use hand sanitizer between cell searches and touching I/I property?

Answer

The write ups are not COVID related. If you could send this concern to me or Ms. Robb, we will look into the issue as a correspondence for this individual situation.

Question

It's been rumored that because of a staffing shortage due to COVID, property is not getting passed out. Is there a schedule on when property might be passed out?

Answer

We can check into this. I don't have any knowledge of staffing issues in property.

- **Update from Property: Property is in the process of hiring a warehouse operator that over sees clothing. Property and clothing are being scheduled for call out 5 days a week 4 times a day with a limited amount of I/I allowed in D4 property. Due to COVID and cohort movement, units are placed on call out once a week.**

Question

Recently, Union Supply quarterly packages were made available more times a year. I put in an order June 1st, but it still hasn't arrived. We called the local Union Supply store and they say it's not from their store and that you have to call the store in Texas.

Answer

I am sure COVID has affected many companies. We can check with Union Supply to see if there is a slow-up with the packages.

- **Update: This package was delivered 7/16. Delivery times can vary due to supply chain challenges and a lack of workers.**

Question

Is visiting still the same as it has been?

Answer

The Safe Start individuals are working on revising the schedule to go to three-hour visits. Right now, we are in one-hour visits. When HQ gives us a start date for three-hour visits, we will send that out.

- **Update: three-hour visit time slots will begin on August 15th and the barriers will be removed.**

Question

When they move to three-hour visits spots, will it be twice a month or once a month?

Answer

It will still be once a month.

Question

Do you have any information regarding types of hearing devices that HQ is looking into to mitigate hearing issues?

Answer

We brought this forward to visiting Safe Start group at HQ. As of right now, we have not heard any updates from HQ.

Question

Some people have already started scheduling their visits for next month. Will those who have already scheduled a visit have to cancel and re-schedule or only get the one hour?

Answer

That's a great question. I don't have an answer yet. But this is the discussion with the Safe Start group. Once this information comes out, we will send it to the LFC.

- **Update: If you are scheduled before August 15, you may cancel the visit. Visits are still limited to one visit a month. We cannot guarantee you will be scheduled due to space limitations and scheduling on**

a first come, first served basis. Three-hour contact visit opportunities will begin Sunday, August 15, 2021. The updated visit appointment schedule request form will be deployed on Monday, August 9, 2021. Three-hour visits will not be available to be scheduled until Monday, August 9, 2021.

Question

As we try to get back to a new normal, what level are we at?

Answer

We have the different phases for visiting. As HQ progresses through the different phases, they will send out communication to the population and we will send that to LFC when we get it.

Question

At what point do the masks go away and have regular chow hall?

Answer

Masks are being talked about, but we haven't heard any updates on protocols for reopening chow halls.

Comments/Closing

We will continue the COVID calls on the second Wednesday of the month. Try to get those questions in as soon as you can so we can get those answered. I appreciate your time, questions, and patience. Things will never go as fast as we want. We want to get back to a new normal, but we need to do it in the safest way. We will bring up your concerns and questions at the next visiting safe start meeting. We are dealing with the heat appropriately, we are in fire season, so based on smoke we will be looking at the protocols we had last year. Stay safe.