

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 8/11/2021, 2:00PM

Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Monica Ritter, HQ
- Jess Robb, Facility Secretary
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Family Co-Chair
- Donna Jaramillo, LFC Family Secretary
- Michelle Mason, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Valerie Smith, LFC Member
- Hattie Wolf, LFC Member
- Heather Swanson, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Teresa Golden, LFC member
- April Chavez, LFC Member
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Juanita Rodriguez, LFC Member
- Christina Current, LFC member
- Mildred Hawthorne, 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 – 2
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1677
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 259
 - AHCC I/I deaths – 4
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 0
- Moderna Vaccine administered to both I/I and staff:
 - AHCC Initiating Vaccination Administered – 1,540
 - AHCC Second Vaccination Administered – 1,416
 - Total Vaccines Administered at AHCC – 2,956
- Johnson and Johnson Vaccines Administered:
 - AHCC – 149

- We sent out information to the LFC regarding the limited area cluster in D5, as well as the COVID-19 bulletin.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

Has the state library reopened since it was shut down due to COVID?

Answer

The librarian is getting reorganized, and he will let us know when they are ready to open. There's not a specific date at this time.

Question

Are the officers changing their gloves after each cell search?

Answer

The current PPE Matrix gives expectations for staff to use gloves during cell searches.

Question

With COVID still ongoing what is the official protocol for cell searches as the officers are searching the inmates' cells?

Answer

Due to safety and security concerns, cell searches are taking place with proper PPE being used by the staff conducting the search according to the PPE matrix.

Question

What is the procedure for testing staff? If the process has not changed since testing started, why, considering it has been proven to be a faulty way of testing?

Answer

This has been established from the start to be completed by staff weekly. There has been no evidence that the process is faulty. We have identified staff as being positive and mitigated further spread by isolating/quarantining them at home until they have met certain criteria by the Occupational Nurse Consultant (ONC) and medical department. Staff test every week.

Question

When quarantining incarcerated gentlemen in M unit a couple of weeks ago, why, yet again, did they take random people, (but not their cell mates), and put them in quarantine for hardly a week without ever testing them?

Answer

The "quarantined" individuals were the ones possibly exposed. Their cellmates were a third party and thus not needing to be quarantined per guidelines unless their "quarantined" cell mate showed any kind of symptoms. Testing was not done, and their quarantine was shortened due to two negative tests on the individual with possible symptoms and their vaccination status.

Question

What can we, as loved ones, do to help advocate for incarcerated to get the vaccine?

Answer

I encourage them to do so. It's the best way to keep them safe and us as well. We are still offering the vaccine; they can sign up by kite. Medical are doing vaccinations weekly.

Question

With Governor Inslee mandating that ALL state employees get vaccinated by October 18th, will the facility be upholding that?

Answer

Yes. We are waiting for more information from HQ on Q&A that will go out to staff. But we will be abiding by this direction.

Question

Is there any update on when the incarcerated gentlemen will be having their holiday meal?

Answer

This has been answered on previous calls. We are still in the grab and go process. Once the dining halls are able to reopen, I would like to do this.

Question

I have been told by a few incarcerated gentlemen that night yard is closed again. Is this due to anything Covid related?

Answer

It is not covid related. There are two night yards. The late one closed on 8/3/21 due to the lack of natural light. The early evening yard will close on 9/7/21 for the same reason. We have to close these a little sooner due to outside light and it gets darker earlier.

Additional Questions

Question

With the vaccine requirement, will it impact the staff and population? Do you feel this could bring on a shortage of staff?

Answer

We are working hard to give clarification out to staff to continue to become vaccinated. We have a staffing plan in place to ensure the continued operations of the facility.

Question

If the officers refuse to get vaccinated and I/I don't want to be vaccinated, could you stick them all in one unit so it doesn't spread?

Answer

We have no plans to separate vaccinated vs unvaccinated. We are encouraging the I/I to get vaccinated as well as staff.

Question

Is there talk about making the vaccine mandatory for I/I?

Answer

I have not heard any conversations about this.

Question

Is DOC following the Dept of Health or CDC about looking into the third booster for vaccination?

Answer

I am not sure what HQ is looking into. But we are still working closely with the CDC and DOH.

Question

Is there an ETA on when facility in person meetings will happen? Such as LFC?

Answer

We haven't heard anything about having meetings back on site. We are still doing them virtually.

Question

On 8/2 and 8/9, the phones in the prison were shut off. Do you know why?

Answer

There was a memo sent out that the phones were being worked on. We will double check on this.

- **Update:** This was due to an issue with the Comcast services. They were able to locate some amplifiers on the system that were out of date and needed replaced.

Question

I just want to make sure I didn't miss anything regarding if visiting for 3 hours was not going to open?

Answer

We are still scheduled to open on the 15th.

Question

Do you have information on when EFVs will be starting?

Answer

We are working on getting the EFVs ready. But we have no date on when they will open.

Question

N95 masks were handed out. How often are these changed out, or how long can an I/I wear them before getting a new one?

Answer

Individuals can wear N95s to and from programming due to the smoke. They can switch them out as much as they need to during the unhealthy air quality.

Question

How many tables will be available with the contact visits?

Answer

There are 35 tables in the MAIN and 28 in the MSU. Each table can have up to one I/I and 3 visitors, no matter the age as long as they are on the approved visiting list.

- **Update: The max capacity is 27 tables in the MAIN, and 17 in the MSU. These may not all be set up unless they are needed.**

Question

I know when people are flying, they had to have proof of a negative PCR test 72 hours prior to boarding the plane. Is DOC doing something similar?

Answer

The protocols have been posted on the website. You must show proof of vaccination, or you will need to take a rapid antigen test. You will have to wait in your car for 15 min for that test to come back. We will call you with the results.

Question

If I take the train and then catch the bus in front of the facility, how would I go about getting my test?

Answer

We will have designated areas for those who do not have vehicle access.

Question

I am wondering if we can play any games for the three-hour visits?

Answer

You cannot. The protocols and rules are posted on the website.

Question

Are restrooms going to be available?

Answer

This is listed on the website. Yes, they will be available.

Question

On my last visit I was offered a bottle of water, but my loved one was not?

Answer

The visitors will be allowed a bottle of water. I/I will have paper cups and they can use the water fountain.

- **Update: I/I are allowed to have bottled water upon request.**

Question

Is there a water fountain acceptable for them to use within the barriers?

Answer

Without the barriers during the three-hour visits, there are water fountains available for them to use.

- **Update: Not applicable as I/I are allowed to have bottled water upon request.**

Question

There were two COs who tested positive. Was that the Delta strain?

Answer

We cannot give out personal medical information about I/I or staff.

Question

With the three-hour visits, will we be able to purchase food?

Answer

This information is outlined on the website. Vending machines are not available during this phase.

Question

I don't know what the smoke conditions are, but are the I/I able to get out and get fresh air?

Answer

We update the air quality every hour. As long as its in the healthy range they are allowed to go out to yard. If it's unhealthy, they are not allowed to go to yard.

Question

Is the unhealthy range posted on the website?

Answer

Yes, it is. (<https://spokaneleanair.org/current-air-quality>)

- LFC member: On the DOC website, underneath the COVID 19 banner, there is a green one that was updated yesterday that speaks about heat warning and gives information regarding the smoke and heat.

Question

Are you doing the rapid testing for the officers?

Answer

We have used them in the past, but staff are tested weekly.

Question

With COVID numbers rising again, is AHCC adding any nutritional supplements to help boost immunity?

Answer

Some supplements are available for purchase from the commissary.

Question

Since the RCF is back up, how many individuals have been transferred into the care facility?

Answer

None at this time.

Comments/Closing

The numbers are going up around the state. We are still testing staff weekly. We look forward to Sunday for contact visiting. Many staff have been working tirelessly to make this happen. We will put the smoke website in the notes. Thank you for your time. Be safe and take care of yourself.