

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 9/8/2021, 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
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- Valerie Smith, LFC Member
- Hattie Wolf, LFC Member
- Kim Raap, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Teresa Golden, LFC member
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Juanita Rodriguez, LFC Member
- Christina Current, 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.robb@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 – 6
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1682
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 270
 - AHCC I/I deaths – 4
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 0
- Memos were sent out to LFC members this week regarding R unit coming off limited outbreak status and about operationalizing the RCF.
- There were some concerns sent to me about R unit getting commissary. They were able to order through the old paper ordering process.
- JPay was on site Sept 1st. They checked terminals freezing up and monitors.
- There was a memo sent out stating we will be housing 26 I/I from a fire in OCC. Twenty-four of those 26 have been cleared to go back to OCC on Thursday. Two are still in isolation.

- We received a request from an LFC member to increase the calls. Does twice a month work for everyone?
 - LFC Consensus: Yes, it does.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question

A lot of the quarantined inmates haven't been able to go to their jobs and schooling. Will these working inmates receive COVID pay?

Answer

We have not received anything from HQ reinstating COVID pay for outbreak or quarantine status individuals.

Question

Has the Department of Health protocol changed from two negative COVID tests before releasing I/I from quarantine?

Answer

The updated COVID guidelines require a negative test at days 10-14. They had to have a third test collected and negative results before being released. The other tests were collected prior to the 10-14 days.

Question

How are we as family members to receive updates?

Answer

Any COVID memos that we send out to the population are also sent to the LFC members as well. The DOC website is actively updated.

Question

Is it normal for an inmate under COVID quarantine who declares a mental health emergency be placed into a dry cell and left there until mental health sees them?

Answer

When we respond to a MHE, we are to be provided a confidential space to conduct the interview. However, given some of the restrictions with PPE and infection management, we sometimes talk to people at cell front to initially assess what is happening and to determine appropriate follow up. If we determine that we will need a confidential space for the interview, we are to be provided with that space which may look something like both inmate and therapist donning full PPE in a room. These are situational cases. They could be awaiting transport for mental health.

Question

Is Airway Heights following Secretary Strange's requirement that all employees be vaccinated?

Answer

It's a mandate from the governor, and we are following this.

Question

Are more staff getting vaccinated since Governor Inslee mandated vaccines for state workers?

Answer

Since the declaration, we've been having vaccine clinics for staff and I/I each week. We have seen more staff get vaccinated.

Question

Since DOC is now in FY22, will the I/I still get their holiday meal from FY21?

Answer

Yes, when we get to a point where we are eating in the chow hall, we will facilitate this meal.

Additional Questions

Question

The first COVID test in R Unit the I/I got a paper result. Will the I/I receive the results in paper form for the other two tests? Is it being documented in their file?

Answer

I will check if they are receiving paper results. It is documented in their medical file.

- Update from Medical: They should be getting paper results. If they do not and would like one they can kite medical.

Question

On the last state COVID call, they stated multiple facilities are testing staff twice a week. Is AHCC doing this?

Answer

No. We are still doing testing once a week whether you are vaccinated or not.

Question

Since we have to show our vaccine card for visiting, do the officers have to show us their card to show they are vaccinated?

Answer

I do not think this will be required; I can assure you we are following the mandate that each staff is getting vaccinated.

LFC Member: I just want to pass along that you are allowed one three-hour visit a month along with one EFV visit a month.

Question

If we have to wear masks into our visits for 3 hours, how will that work for EFVs?

Answer

- The EFV COVID guidelines state the following:
 - Face masks and social distancing are not required during the EFV once inside the EFV unit. However, prior to staff entering the EFV unit, all individuals participating in the EFV are required to put their masks on.
 - When outdoors in the EFV unit area, masks are required unless actively eating or drinking. If there are adjacent or combined outdoor EFV areas, only one EFV party can be in the outdoor area at a time.

Question

Visitors have to do the RAT test if not vaccinated or show proof of vaccination. Will unvaccinated incarcerated be getting RAT tested before the visit?

Answer

No, they will not.

Question

Since visitors have to show proof of vaccination or take a test, then why don't the I/I?

Answer

That's not in the protocols from what we have been given. That may be a good question for Ms. Bisbee to bring up at the statewide meeting.

Question

Could more than one unit be cohorted when going to yard?

Answer

I'll go back to the cohorting schedule. We will add this to the notes.

- Update: The yard is being cohorted by single units and 50% capacity.

Comments/Closing

If you are watching the statewide website and checking numbers, we are having institutions with the delta variant. This is not over yet. We are fortunate that R unit came back negative to get off quarantine. We are still using N unit for isolation and quarantine. We are still doing vigorous cleaning in the units. We are working on getting the incentives implemented and getting back to a new normal with programming. We will see you next meeting. Be safe. Thank you for your time.