

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: AHCC

Date and Time: 9/22/2021, 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
- Kehaulani Walker, LFC Member
- Hattie Wolf, LFC Member
- Stella Spracklin, OCO
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Rachel Bisbee, SFC Representative
- Teresa Golden, LFC member
- Michelle Mason, 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 Associate Superintendent Heinrich

- Numbers as of 1:00 PM **per the website:**
 - AHCC new positive cases in the last 30 days – 1
 - AHCC I/I Confirmed cases – 1682
 - AHCC Staff Confirmed cases – 282
 - AHCC I/I deaths – 4
 - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 11
- JPay has extended the two free 30-minute video connect sessions through December 31st, 2021. The two free weekly email stamps ended on August 31, 2021.
- We have begun the resumption of the special visits. A memo was sent out to the I/I and the LFC regarding the process to request a special visit.

Additional Questions

Question

Monday or Tuesday (20th – 21st) in KB there were six officers in the officers' station who were not wearing their masks. Could someone please investigate this?

Answer

Absolutely.

- **Update from the CUS: I spoke to the tier rep who explained it was an isolated incident that did occur on graveyard. The staff in my chain verified the situation and agreed to wear masks. Graveyard Lieutenant was notified.**

Question

Has the facility lost staff due to the governor's mandate to get vaccinated?

Answer

We are still working through this; we have staffing contingency planning for whatever happens.

Question

If you schedule a three-hour visit and have your vaccination card, will you still test those visitors?

Answer

As of now, if you have a vaccination card you do not need to get RAT tested.

- **Update: All visitors, regardless of vaccination status, need to be RAT tested before allowed on site.**

Question

My son, who is on a work crew, stated they have not been going out due to there not being enough coverage for staff to supervise them. Is this related to the vaccine issues?

Answer

This is not necessarily due to vaccinations. We currently have many vacancies due to staff retiring and screen outs. As a result of that we have had to use emergency staffing for filling critical areas.

Question

I asked last week about officers showing vaccine cards. I think if we have to show our cards, they should have to show their cards.

Answer

This is not currently a requirement. Staff still get tested weekly; we are following CDC guidelines. By October 18th all staff working for DOC are required to be vaccinated.

Question

The vaccination card issue was something I was going to bring up at the state COVID call. We understand staff get tested weekly and they are supposed to wear their mask. This has not stopped the COVID numbers from rising.

Answer

It's well known the governor has now made a condition of employment to be vaccinated. There are mitigation processes in place, and we are following those. By the 18th, all our staff will be fully vaccinated.

Question

How many staff in the last 30 days have left due to the mandate? Do you have a rough idea of how many employees have stated "I am leaving due to the vaccine"?

Answer

No, we don't. Unless someone turns in a resignation stating that, we wouldn't know. It's hard to determine that, as we also have employees retiring. We don't have this information and probably won't until we reach the October 18th deadline.

Question

Why was the fifth I/I death removed from the website and taken down to 4?

Answer

The DOC website states that information.

Question

For the I/I who've had both their vaccines, will they be offered in the future the 3rd booster vaccination?

Answer

We get that direction from HQ. We have not been given that information at this point in time.

Question

Have any EFVs been scheduled yet for AHCC?

Answer

We were given the directive to open our scheduling books for EFVs September 1st. Many of EFVs that were cancelled due to COVID have been scheduled and we will open the EFVs Sept. 24th. HQ was happy to hear that we were reaching out to families on the 1st.

Question

For clarification, AHCC started scheduling the EFVs on Sept. 1st and HQ was happy to know that we were scheduling on Sept. 1st? Other facilities began EFVs on the 1st.

Answer

Other facilities may have been able to start the first weekend of September. We were not able to as the EFVs housing were used for alternative housing. We are able to open them up on September 24th.

Question

How many I/I are being housed in the RCF?

Answer

11.

Question

Are the staff working in the RCF dedicated to that unit?

Answer

The staff work exclusively in the RCF. They have no other posts. They are not allowed to work outside the RCF. Our nursing staffing is based on how many patients we have and their needs.

Question

Are the I/I in the RCF AHCC patients or from other facilities?

Answer

It is a regional care facility. Most I/I in there are from Coyote Ridge or WSP.

Question

When Secretary Strange's memo came out about EFVs opening, were the EFVs still be utilized by the I/I?

Answer

No, they were not.

Question

Is the state library open now?

Answer

I am expecting to hear from the librarian this week. When that happens, I will get a kiosk message out to the population and staff.

- **Update: The state library is now offering limited service.**

Question

Do you know if they have plans to postpone the 2021 holiday meal as well?

Answer

We'll have to take that month by month and see where the institution is.

Question

How many COs whose home post is AHCC have been covering shifts at other facilities?

Answer

We have had a couple of specialty team members assist at other facilities at the request of HQ. Due to our staffing vacancies, we have not been able to send many staff.

Question

Would the contingency plans include asking previous staff who have retired or worn a uniform to come back to the facility?

Answer

Our emergency staffing plan includes many factors. That is one of them. The lieutenants and I are working on plans to help maintain programming and recreational opportunities.

Question

Are we borrowing custody officers from other facilities at this time?

Answer

No, we are not.

Question

Is it possible for me to take a sheet of paper into visiting for questions and to take notes as my loved one is releasing soon?

Answer

Unfortunately, we do not allow any correspondence into or out of visiting.

Question

Is the memo sent out to the population regarding special visits posted on the DOC website?

Answer

I do not believe it will be posted. It is sent out to I/I and staff. The I/I can share that with their loved ones as well.

Question

Other facilities have posted on their website the information timeline memo sent out to the population about COVID-19. Is there a reason AHCC doesn't?

Answer

We will look into that.

- **Update: Other institutions post situational update memos written with Joint Information Center (JIC). If the facility is not in a status to require those updates, they are not posted.**

Question

If an I/I needs to see their doctor, should they be able to get an appointment in a timely manner? How long should an I/I expect to wait to see a doctor once they have put in a kite?

Answer

That process should be the same. We have increased the number of movements to medical to give medical the opportunity to see more patients.

Question

Have medical and mental health staff decreased since the vaccination mandate? Is there a contingency plan for them?

Answer

Anyone who works at AHCC is under the same mandate. Each department has contingency plans for staffing shortages.

Question

Are staff who've been requested to cover at other facilities required to do a ten-day quarantine before and after they go to another facility?

Answer

They go through rapid testing before they leave. The quarantine standards only apply if they been around an individual who is COVID positive.

Question

Is the rapid testing done every five to seven days?

Answer

No, they get rapid testing before they leave, and they do serial testing once they return.

Question

It has been proven that rapid testing can produce false positives. These are not a guarantee.

Answer

We have not seen false negatives, but we have seen false positives. That person would be isolated immediately. If it is determined that they have symptoms, another COVID test would be administered. They would not be around the population.

Question

It's great to hear that the employees are being tested on a weekly basis. Why are the visitors who are vaccinated not being tested?

Answer

At this point in time if you are vaccinated you do not have to get RAT tested. You are still screened when entering the facility.

- **Update: All visitors regardless of vaccination status must be RAT tested when coming on-site.**

Question

Can you say if any of the I/I have been COVID positive twice, or if they've had the delta variant?

Answer

We will see if we can answer that.

- **Update: Yes, there has been some cases that have COVID positive twice. We are unsure if it is the Delta variant, as it is the lab's decision whether or not they want to test for the Delta variant.**

Question

I forgot to ask for the results of my RAT when I was on-site. How can I go about getting those?

Answer

We are not giving out negative results. The tests are disposed of.

Question

Are the negative tests being done on-site being separated from the positive tests or the tests that are reported on the website?

Answer

The RAT testing is separate from the serial testing. We do not have any requirements to keep or share those numbers for visitors. It's only to verify if you are positive or negative to be able to come on-site.

Question

Does DOC provide postage for I/I to send their families information that the I/I receive but isn't posted on the DOC webpage?

Answer

No, we do not.

Comments/Closing

Please send in your questions on the Tuesday prior to calls. We appreciate your questions. We will continue to try our best to keep staff and I/I safe and we will speak with you in a couple of weeks.