

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** AHCC

**Date and Time:** 01/12/2022, 2:00PM

## Attendees

- Kay Heinrich, Associate Superintendent
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Ellen Hargrove, LFC Family Co-Chair
- Donna Jaramillo, LFC Family Secretary
- Julie Burden, LFC Member
- Bill Hargrove, LFC Member
- James Key, Superintendent
- Caitlin Robertson, OCO
- Monica Ritter, HQ
- Hattie Wolf, LFC Member
- Erin Molish, LFC member
- Juanita Rodriguez, 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 Ally Ross at the following email address:

[anally.ross@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:anally.ross@doc1.wa.gov)

OR

**Ally Ross, Administrative Assistant  
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. Webb 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 James Key

- Numbers as of 12:30 PM **per the website:**
  - AHCC I/I new positive cases in the last 30 days – 23
  - AHCC I/I confirmed cases to date – 1710
  - AHCC Staff confirmed cases to date – 332
  - AHCC I/I deaths to date – 4
  - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 0
- Moderna Vaccine administered to both I/I and staff:
  - AHCC First Vaccination Administered – 1,631
  - AHCC Second Vaccination Administered – 1,567
  - AHCC Third Vaccination Administered – 342
  - Total Vaccines Administered at AHCC – 3,540
- Johnson and Johnson Vaccines Administered
  - AHCC – 345

## Pre-Submitted Questions

### Question

Have all staff now received their second COVID vaccination? Will there be a requirement that staff receives the booster?

### Answer

We can't provide booster information. We don't require it and aren't able to accurately track it as staff are not required to submit the information and may obtain in the community. All staff are 100% vaccinated.

### Question

What has AHCC learned from the first wave of Covid and how is this information being applied now that Covid cases are increasing again?

### Answer

We are learning from the past and applying new protocols. Daily meetings are being held and we are being more proactive based on what we learned last year. We are also preparing for any directives Headquarters may send. There is currently a limited area outbreak in T Unit, we are continuing to use the same protocols of masking, cleaning, and social distancing.

### Question

What is being done differently this time from what was done last time?

### Answer

We are being more proactive, we can't know 100% what will happen before it happens but, we have protocols in place and are prepared.

### Question

What is being done to mitigate the spread of Omicron?

### Answer

We are following all current CDC guidelines masks, social distancing, co-horting, and cleaning. Staff are all vaccinated as of October 14th. We are offering vaccinations to mitigate the spread as often as possible.

### Question

What percentage of the incarcerated people at AHCC are fully vaccinated including the booster?

### Answer

We can't provide booster information. We don't require it and aren't able to accurately track it as staff are not required to submit the information and may obtain in the community. All staff are 100% vaccinated as of October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Moderna Vaccine administered to both I/I and staff:

AHCC First Vaccination Administered – 1,631

AHCC Second Vaccination Administered – 1,567

AHCC Third Vaccination Administered – 342

AHCC Johnson and Johnson Vaccines Administered – 345

Total Vaccines Administered at AHCC – 3,540

#### Question

What is being done to encourage incarcerated persons and staff to get vaccinated?

Answer: Gudvangen, Justin R. (DOC)

Educating Incarcerated Individuals on the process and answering questions they may have reinforcing the importance of the vaccine. Being proactive when Incarcerated Individuals transfer from another facility asking them as soon as they are off the bus if they have been vaccinated or if they are interested in being vaccinated, scheduling and appointment for them and providing them with information at that time.

#### Question

What is being done to ensure incarcerated persons receive good mental health care?

Answer

There is a process in place for mental health issues, staff as well as Incarcerated Individuals can fill out a form to request services, for emergency scenarios we have a process in place for immediate assistance. Wellness checks are also being done and reported the appropriate staff.

#### Question

How do chaplains and health care staff support good mental health care for incarcerated persons?

Answer

Religious coordinator Luce receives KITES and can have a 1 on 1 conversation with the Incarcerated Individual if needed. We are currently having religious services as much as we can. Religious coordinator Luce will talk 1 on 1 with anyone regardless of religious denomination. If at the time of the interaction there is a mental health concern, he will notify mental health.

#### Question

I am hearing that staff in some units are not wearing masks as required.

Answer

There is now an enforcement officer on staff that reports directly to Superintendent Key. They monitor staff as well as Incarcerated Individuals carefully for mask wearing, social distancing by video and walk arounds. Accountability is key especially when there is 3 to a table, mask below the nose, etc. for both staff and Incarcerated Individuals.

#### Question

What is being done to ensure that all staff in units are wearing masks?

Answer

Please review the last Q&A: Monitoring staff and Incarcerated Individuals closely with the new enforcement officer position and enforcing compliance.

#### Question

Are videos that monitor staff in the units being viewed frequently to ensure staff is complying with masking requirements? If not, why not?

Answer

Yes, per previous answer staff and Incarcerated Individuals are being monitored by the enforcement officer as well as Superintendent Key.

### Question

How often are staff being tested for COVID?

### Answer

Since the start of the pandemic staff are tested once a week.

### Question

In December, I submitted a visit request for three visits in January. While I received immediate computer-generated confirmation that the request was received, the request did not reach the schedulers at AHCC. Through a telephone call, this was resolved. When I arrived for my visit, however, the Visiting Room Staff did not have my name on the list of visitors. A second AH family member reported that she also sent in a request, but AH scheduling staff had not received it. A third AH family member reports that she added a family member to her visit by telephoning scheduling staff. She talked to staff two different times and it was not until she spoke to a third person that she received an email confirmation that the three would be approved. The concern is that there is a glitch in the computerized system which is not generating the emails.

### Answer

Right now, visiting has been suspended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We will process applications and figure out any glitches hopefully before visiting resumes.

### Updates

EFV and Visiting has been suspended per the communication sent by Headquarters. As usual, when we have updates, they will be communicated to you as well as the Incarcerated Individuals.

### Additional Questions

#### Question

The person that was hired for enforcement, when enforcing 2 to a table, masking do they do it at different times and is there group punishment due to non-compliance?

#### Answer

The enforcement officer is looking at video and doing walkabouts at different times of the day, every day, there is BOE's (Behavior Observation Entries) for those who do not comply. If it is a big group that are not complying there is a possibility for reprimand for the unit.

**Follow up question:** If half of the unit has been non-compliant and half has not it seems unfair to punish the entire unit.

**Follow up response:** The unit is divided into two sections A side and B side, if one of those sides is non-compliant, they are the ones who are reprimanded. We need to enforce compliance what happened last year is starting back up again therefore we need to stay on top of it and hold people accountable.

#### Question

Do you know how the T Unit cases started?

#### Answer

We have mapping capabilities and T Unit is in a limited area outbreak, the website gives you the explanation of what that is.

#### Question

Is current programming or education being impacted?

#### Answer

Yes and no. T Unit which is in a limited area outbreak is not attending programming. All other units are business as usual. The state library is not open per the direction of their director as of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

#### Question

If all staff are 100% vaccinated how was there a breakthrough?

#### Answer

There is a possibility even when staff are all 100% vaccinated. In October we lost staff due to COVID and the proclamation for mandated vaccinations, but serial tests are being done weekly and people are being screened out if they do not feel well. There is a shortage of staff, but we are doing the best we can to fill those gaps with other custody staff.

#### Question

On the news Dr. Fauci recommended that N95 masks be worn, do the offenders have access to N95's?

#### Answer

Not currently, medical staff will be reviewing the protocols but that is not implemented at this time. They have access to surgical masks.

#### Question

My son has an N95 will washing it destroy the effectiveness? Do they get generic masks? How often do they get surgical masks?

#### Answer

Incarcerated Individuals can ask for a new surgical mask at anytime they just ask the Custody Officers, and they will be required to give officers the old one then they get a new one.

**Follow up question:** My son has a N95 from a work assignment when the smoke was really bad last year. Is it washable or not?

**Follow up answer:** In most cases N95's are not washable, we would advise that he go get a new mask quickly.

#### Question

We know that DOC was fined \$60,000 by L&I. Has AHCC had a compliance check?

#### Answer

Yes, we were under investigation by L&I the results have been communicated to Headquarters and will be posted soon.

**Follow up question:** Do you know when will those results be available?

**Follow up answer:** We hope L&I will give us the paperwork within the next 14 days.

#### Question

At some point in the past covid outbreak Incarcerated Individuals could wear 2 masks at a time. Is this still true?

#### Answer

Before, due to the shortage of surgical masks, a cloth mask over a mask was allowed. Since the supply for surgical masks was replenished, the protocol is that no cloth masks are allowed. They can obtain a surgical mask at any time.

#### Question

On Monday's COVID-19 Bulletin sent out by Susan Biller AHCC's numbers were not listed. Why?

#### Answer

It is updated on Sundays; I will get back to you with an answer.

**UPDATE:** This was an error in headquarters, this will be rectified in the upcoming version.

#### Question

We know that washing hands, wearing masks and social distancing is important. How often do incarcerated have access to soap? I know that hand sanitizer was not allowed, last time there was soap water being handed out. What about those that don't buy soap?

#### Answer

Dry cells have access to soap in the bathrooms. They all have access to soap and water in all areas of the institution.

#### Question

Is there a tracker or a system in place to check staff temperatures and symptoms?

#### Answer

Yes, Public Access/Visiting takes temperatures and asks questions to all staff coming in. If they answer the questions wrong, they are taken aside, mapped, and screened out. If they are clear, they are given a dot sticker and can come in the facility.

#### Question

When the units are in limited area outbreak then they are off quarantine will there be cleaning, disinfecting phones, KIOSK's, and such?

#### Answer

Since the beginning of the pandemic all cleaning protocols have been the same. There is continuous cleaning by the porters. Phones, doors, common areas are all being cleaned.

#### Question

Are we going to have weekly or biweekly COVID calls?

#### Answer

What are your thoughts? It depends on how the week develops, for now we can schedule for every other week but can change that as needed.

**UPDATE: The COVID calls will be facilitated weekly, the next call will take place on Wednesday January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 2:00-3:00 PM.**

#### Question

Orders for religious items from the Chaplain or food packages, I ordered for my son in November, was invoiced in December but he has not received it yet.

#### Answer

If it is a religious item, I would encourage your Incarcerated Individual to please send a KITE to the Religious Coordinator to find out what is going on.

**Follow up question:** I left a voicemail for the chaplain asking him for an update and wondering if things were backed up because of COVID I hope that's okay?

**Follow up answer:** That is fine.

## Comments/Closing

We encourage you to continue reading the website for updates, there is not one facility that is not affected by COVID. With more people out and being short staffed it is imperative to encourage your Incarcerated Individuals to wear masks and comply with social distancing guidelines. With numbers going up it is an issue of safety, we are hoping that with your encouragement of these guidelines we don't go back to last year, but we are prepared. As things progress, we can move to weekly calls if needed.

If you have any other questions, please submit them in advance to or [anally.ross@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:anally.ross@doc1.wa.gov) or [KLHeinrich@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:KLHeinrich@doc1.wa.gov) **before January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at noon** it helps us find the answers for you or invite someone to the meeting that can answer those questions or concerns.

Please continue to encourage social distancing, and masks to help with compliance for the safety of staff and the incarcerated. This is the best way to fight this invisible enemy.

Thank you.

### Question

Have you considered rewarding units for compliance?

### Answer

The facility wide incentive program that Associate Superintendent Heinrich was developing has been suspended due to the circumstances. We are always open for suggestions if you have an idea please let us know.

Thank you all for the participation, thank you for submitting questions in advance, we will see you at the next meeting.