

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** AHCC

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 2:00 – 3:00 PM

## 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. Ross 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 – 144
  - AHCC I/I confirmed cases to date – 1,831
  - AHCC Staff confirmed cases to date – 380
  - AHCC I/I deaths to date – 4
  - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 8

## Pre-Submitted Questions

### Question

If an incarcerated individual wants to move into a room, they need to meet certain PREA scores and requirements. Do all the incarcerated individuals being placed in gyms/visiting rooms/ RCF qualify, or meet the PREA scores to be with all individuals in the area?

### Answer

Just as round 1 classification staff look at PREA scores to keep them separate.

### Question

Which units are in quarantine and isolation?

### Answer

L and T Units are in a Limited Area Outbreak and C-4 and C-5 are in a facility wide outbreak.

### Question

Is mail being delivered in a timely manner to those who have moved to the gym, the RCF, or from one unit to another?

### Answer

Yes, as before mail is being routed to the Incarcerated regardless of their location.

### Question

For individuals who have moved units due to COVID, which unit would one use in the mailing address to send a Valentine card?

### Answer

Mail is being routed regardless of where the Incarcerated Individual is located please send as usual.

### Question

What happens to the property of the I/I who is moved from his unit to the gym or the RCF?

### Answer

Incarcerated individuals may take all their property with them wherever they are moved to except for their mattress.

### Question

How often are those in isolation offered the opportunity to telephone their loved ones?

### Answer

It is dependent on each units cohort schedule, there are portable phones that are available to each incarcerated individual in quarantine/isolation for a period of 20 minutes, they are disinfected between each use.

### Question

How are education and programming affected for those units not in isolation or quarantine?

### Answer

As of this week programing is paused, staffing in these areas are being rerouted as needed.

### Question

Please explain why those in the RCF are allowed showers only once every three days.

### Answer

There was an issue with the water being lukewarm in the shower trailer. As of 1/19/2022 the parts to fix the water heater have arrived and it is being fixed. Incarcerated individuals were provided supplies for a sponge bath in the meantime.

**UPDATE:** The RCF water heater has been fixed

Question

Are hot meals being served to I/I?

Answer

Yes, Cold Breakfast, Hot Lunch and Hot Dinner.

Question

How is the distribution of issuable pills being affected?

Answer

Issuable medications are not being affected, they are being delivered to units that are in quarantine/isolation and those that are not in quarantine/isolation are as normal.

Question

How long are I/I confined to their cells each day?

Answer

There is a cohort schedule in place that varies within each unit dependent on their status.

Question

How are you keeping track of I/I property if their property is placed in storage?

Answer

AHCC is no longer storing Incarcerated Individuals property, they take everything with them when they are moved, except their mattress.

Question

How has laundry been affected? Is it still being done at AHCC?

Answer

Laundry is a day behind, however we do have a contract in place with Kalispel if needed.

Question

Are I/I allowed to exercise or move about in the dayroom?

Answer

Not when the units are in quarantine/isolation.

Question

On page 8 of the AARP Bulletin for January/February 2022, there is an article "How Good is Your Mask?" that states that a medical procedure mask with ear loops is 39% in filtering out Covid size airborne particles. However, if the ear loops are twisted before they are put over the ears, the mask is then 60% effective in filtering out the Covid size airborne particles. The mask fits tighter when the ear loops are twisted. Should staff and incarcerated individuals be twisting the ear loops?

Answer

Our Health Services clinical team continues to evaluate information received from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Health (DOH), as well as the data from our operations to provide revisions to our Safe Start protocols. This includes information regarding mask wearing, social distancing, testing, and so much more. Staff and incarcerated individuals are directed to ensure a secure fit with reminders to use methods such as tightening around the nose piece and/or ear loops to address those concerns. We also have managers and supervisors out reviewing how staff and individuals are wearing their masks to address any observed concerns.

#### Question

I would like to know why inmates are continually being moved around. Isn't this causing an even higher chance of COVID spreading? Why is there not a well-designed plan put in place at this point?

#### Answer

There is a well designed plan in place, when an incarcerated individual tests positive they need to be moved in order to prevent institutional spread. If an incarcerated individual is negative but has been exposed they must be quarantined to see if symptoms develop.

#### Question

My husband requested his Covid vaccine back in Dec and got the confirmation kite back from medical the first part of Jan yet has still not even been given his first vaccine dose. If stopping the spread of Covid is such a high priority that lockdown measures have been taken, why are guys having to wait this long to receive their vaccine? And when should he expect to receive it?

#### Answer

As a suggestion, we would encourage Incarcerated Individuals to write to Medical for follow-up. First, Second and Booster doses are ongoing, the priority right now is response to active COVID cases. There have been weekly clinics, sometimes they have been held twice a week.

#### Question

Guys from camp that are in N unit for quarantine are being told they will be moved to T unit after their quarantine time while waiting to be moved back to camp. How is this safe if T unit is where the outbreak started and has been going on?

#### Answer

Recovered Incarcerated Individuals may go to any unit in the institution where there is a bed available, positives are moved out of the living units and there is cohorting in place for safety.

#### Question

Are guys in quarantine (N unit or RCF) still being given their mail?

#### Answer

Yes.

#### Question

How come DOC is not following the CDC guidelines? Before the answer to every question that we asked about quarantine and isolation your guy's reply was "per CDC guidelines "and our loved ones are being asked to quarantine for 14 days. That is not CDC guidelines. So, will DOC be following CDC guidance? If not how come?

#### Answer

Guidelines for the public are not the same as guidelines for congregate settings. What is seen on the news is for the general population. For congregate settings it is a case-by-case basis dependent on multiple things such as vaccine status, symptoms, etc.

#### Question

Will inmates that are moved due to isolation be allowed to return to the same cellmate assignment for those who have used courtesy moves to cell in with.

#### Answer

We will do our best to do this but it is based on the status of the units.

#### Question

Does the building gym have Wi-Fi access for inmates to be able to wirelessly sync their players to email loved ones?

Answer

Incarcerated individuals housed in the gym go to N unit A wing to shower where they are also able to sync their devices before count.

Question

What steps are being taken to ensure there is no cross contamination with moving individuals due to positive or negative test results?

Answer

There is a process in place to try to mitigate the spread when moving incarcerated individuals.

Question

Can inmates put their KOP refill requests in early to be preemptive of staff shortages, and backlog in the system so inmates don't run out of their medication?

Answer

Refills are limited to when the pharmacy can fill it. Pharmacies can only fill a prescription a few days in advance.

Question

If an inmate tests positive and is symptomatic and recovers, how long of a waiting period will there be before the inmate may return to their living unit?

Answer

It is on a case-by-case basis, they will be returned to the unit when it is appropriate and if there is space available.

Question

What is being done to alleviate the stress on inmates over being moved and assigned cell assignments or housing with mental health conditions such as anxiety or panic attacks. Many mental health emergencies were declared last year during moves from unit to unit.

Answer

Mental health staff are touching base with incarcerated individuals frequently and they are being proactive about going to the units, the same as last time and as needed.

Question

If people are moved to isolation housing such as a Nora unit two-man cell, will the person be classified with like charges to reduce the likelihood of a safety concern arising? If cellmates test positive, can they be celled together?

Answer

There is a PREA and classification check before any movement, and two positives may be housed together.

## Additional Questions

Question

My son moved to RCF because he was symptomatic, there is a phone missing and they are being asked to produce the phone.

Answer

There are 2 phones in the RCF as of 7 PM on 01/18/2022 all phones were working/accounted for.

Question

Are video visits being allowed? What is the protocol if they are in a regular unit versus quarantine? Should we schedule around cohort schedule?

Answer

ICP is looking into video visits, right now we trying to stabilize and will discuss more about video visits next week. We are discussing with ICP a schedule to see if we can make that work.

Question

Why does the DOC website not show how many staff have tested positive in the last 30 days?

Answer

UPDATE: On the Data Dashboard there is an option to see new cases by facility, and the number of cases of the incarcerated and staff, it is shown on the graph.

Question

My husband was transferred from Coyote Ridge, he has nothing with him. Are you able to provide toothbrush, toothpaste, and clothes for him?

Answer

Hygiene items are always provided when there is a transfer.

Question

My son has COVID again, why is that? Are the guards being tested? He had it last year and now again.

Answer

Staff and Incarcerated Individuals can be reinfected. Yes, all staff are tested 2 times a week.

Question

My son had 3 Moderna vaccines, could it be that the last dose was a live vaccine?

Answer

The same formula is used on every vaccine, they are not live. The vaccine provides protection and prevention from hospitalization but does not prevent it 100%. When a new variant comes around the vaccine affects differently. Prevention of hospitalization and death is very high, we have noticed a lot of asymptomatic cases and a lot of mild symptoms.

Question

Do officers test more than once a week?

Answer

Yes, as of this week staff are being tested twice a week.

Question

Is it true that M Unit has no hot water?

Answer

This has not been reported to us.

Question

Why are there no masks in the RCF?

Answer

Due to the respiratory difficulties that this virus may cause masks are optional for Incarcerated Individuals in the RCF unless staff is present.

## Comments/Closing

### **Dr. Heinrich –**

Activity packets have been handed out to Incarcerated Individuals due to the limit on programming and other outlets. Per their request, they received a deck of cards, along with 9 pages of activities to help alleviate the frustration of quarantine/isolation.

### **Superintendent Key –**

I walked around to talk to the population and staff, overall, the tone is good. We are trying to provide as much accommodation as possible, we are pushing through. We are in a better place than last time, we are consistently testing which we know will result in more positives, but we have beds. We are also working on staffing issues. I remain hopeful, a large percentage of the population is vaccinated, there is a lot of asymptomatic incarcerated individuals and no hospitalizations, we are doing our best and we will keep going. We know that JPay and video visits are essential, and we will have more information on this soon.

If you have any other questions, please submit them in advance to or [anally.ross@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:anally.ross@doc1.wa.gov) **before January 25<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.