

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** AHCC

**Date and Time:** January 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 – 541
  - AHCC I/I confirmed cases to date – 2,228
  - AHCC Staff confirmed cases to date – 432
  - AHCC I/I deaths to date – 4
  - AHCC I/I in the RCF – 25

## Pre-Submitted Questions

### Question

What is the process when an inmate tests positive and he is rooming with a person that tests negative? At camp there is a situation where several tested positive and were informed that they were going to be moved Monday night and on Tuesday at 10 am they are still rooming with the negative roommate and have not been informed that they are to be moved.

### Answer

We are not aware of any Incarcerated Individuals being testing positive and being left with a negative Incarcerated Individual even after they test positive. We make every effort to move the positive Incarcerated out as soon as possible from the time of the positive results.

### Question

Is there a financial stipend for the amount of positive cases within a facility?

### Answer

Absolutely no, there is no financial stipend.

### Question

What is the process for testing? My son has been tested four different times, each time being negative, so wondering how you determine when and who you are testing.

### Answer

MSU is being tested daily, in order to separate as soon as possible from the time Incarcerated Individuals test positive. When in outbreak status each Incarcerated Individual must be tested a minimum of three times. The first is within 48 hours of being in outbreak status, second is 5-7 days, third is 10-14 days. There is more frequency in testing if exposure or symptoms develop.

### Question

The ten hour between meals and the completely frozen meals they receive for dinner. What is being done to address that?

### Answer

Currently, Incarcerated Individuals are being served 3 meals a day consisting of 2 colds and 1 hot. The frozen meal situation has been addressed; some meals have had a delay due to the staff shortage. There are people coming from around the entire state to help with these shortages and ensure the timely delivery of meals.

## Additional Questions

### Question

At Camp, there have been several Incarcerated that have tested positive and have not been moved until 4-5 hours after their positive test. Why?

### Answer

Staff need to find an available unit to place the positive incarcerated individual, there are hundreds of tests being processed and we must ensure we are coordinating moves accordingly. Exposure occurs when a person has been exposed more than 15 minutes to someone that has tested positive for COVID-19. Taking this into account for Incarcerated Individuals that are celled together; if one is testing negative and the other is testing positive, the negative individual will already have been exposed for longer than 15 minutes at the time of the test. We are still doing as much as possible to attempt to move individuals in a timely manner.

#### Question

Where do memos from Secretary Strange come from? I know some of them are behind but on the state LFC call on Saturday this memo was being referred to, but we never received it.

#### Answer

AHCC sends out local communications and Headquarters sends out communications from Secretary Strange. You can contact your LFC State Representative if you would like more information.

#### Question

Camp individuals were moved to a Main unit, some of the incarcerated that were already in that unit have been there in quarantine for a while, are they being mixed with confirmed positives and exposures? Are they being re-exposed?

#### Answer

There is a safeguarding process in place to make sure that this does not happen. After isolation incarcerated can continue about their regular activities, they may stay in the same unit until it is safe to return to their regular unit. The goal is to return them to their original unit but that is until it is safe to do so.

#### Question

Why is there a limit on water in MAIN? They are only being provided 4 bottles a day, why?

#### Answer

Medium units all have access to water in their cells, MI3 or MSU all have water in their tiers as well as being able to ask for water as needed. There was concerns about the water being dirty, we get our water form the City of Spokane and it is tested monthly.

#### Question

There is a concern about M Unit cells being locked with no access to bathrooms.

#### Answer

A lockdown was initiated by Superintendent Key, all incarcerated individuals came out of their cells and were refusing to go back in, they were told repeatedly to go back in their cells and did not comply. When they did comply, there was staff there to let them out to use the bathroom as needed.

#### Question

My husband was tested on the 14<sup>th</sup> and has not obtained his results. What is the process for obtaining results?

#### Answer

Communicating test results to Incarcerated Individuals is an ongoing process, there are over 100 moves occurring daily and medical is working endlessly to get those results to the incarcerated as soon as possible.

#### Question

Is there an update on video visits when an incarcerated individual is moved?

#### Answer

We are currently developing a system where they can sync their devices 24—48 hours after their move so families can then schedule these calls with their loved one.

#### Question

What is the process for incarcerated individuals being able to use the phone?

#### Answer

As discussed in last weeks meeting, there is a cohorting schedule in place for those that are in isolation/quarantine for the use of cordless phones for 20 minutes a day. We did have some issues with our

cordless phones and the batteries which was resolved. Please keep in mind that when there is an emergency within the unit regular operations stop in order to assist the emergency and then resume after it has been resolved which could cause a delay in phone usage.

#### Question

Some incarcerated individuals are stating that due to the staffing shortage food arrives to the units late and cold. Why is K Unit not being used to help when they have been vaccinated and boosted and have been tested twice?

#### Answer

K Unit was being utilized for these services up until based on testing they were put in quarantine status. When incarcerated individuals recover and can be placed in any available unit, we will resume their work with Correctional Industries. There are staff deployed to AHCC from all over the state to assist with staffing shortages, the top priority is the kitchen to feed the population. As soon as we can safely have recovered incarcerated individuals working in these positions again, we will do so.

#### Question

My son had the 3 COVID vaccines and tested positive in T Unit, can he be reinfected with the same strain twice?

#### Answer Dr. Pavlic –

Based on what we currently know, people cannot be reinfected with the same variant, up to when COVID first stated we did not know if reinfection was possible and now, we know that it is. We are still all learning as this virus mutates.

#### Question

Should families be holding off on sending those monthly/bimonthly food packages that we send regularly due to the delays in commissary?

#### Answer

One of our top priority's is commissary as well as kitchen, we are fulfilling orders as quick as possible with the help we have received from other parts of the state. Vendors are also experiencing delays in shipping and receiving.

## Comments/Closing

#### Superintendent Key –

The message I want to relay today, is a message of hope. We are seeing a lot of recovery; our vaccination numbers are good and though there is a lot of moving we keep incarcerated individuals informed. As far as the tone of the institution, it is okay, which is understood because the population is tired of moving. We will continue to reiterate the intricacies of these moves and the reason for them is to keep everyone safe and reduce institutional spread. We have learned and applied a lot of lessons to this second round of COVID. We are hoping a plateau is on the horizon.

Video visits are currently being worked out. I want to thank Dr. Heinrich and her team for all the hard work they are putting into this process of video visiting. The process has proven difficult as we try to be mindful of everyone involved. Staffing is still a priority, we hope the number of staff coming on board increases soon, we ask that you please be patient as we work through this. Thank you Dr. Pavlic for joining us today. Please continue to encourage your loved one to follow protocol and keep wearing their masks. We are doing our best and we will get through this.

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 **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at noon** it helps us find the answers for you or invite someone to the meeting that can answer those questions and address concerns.