

Local Family Council COVID 19 Teleconference
Coyote Ridge Corrections Center
March 26, 2020

Facilitator: Michelle Duncan, Associate Superintendent

Attendance:

Local Family Council Members

Ron Thompson, Captain

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Statement of Current Operations:

Purpose – To ensure that families are provided with information related to the COVID – 19 outbreak and how CRCC is managing this within the facility to ensure for the health and safety of their loved ones.

Sanitation – A germicidal that is approved by the Health Department that is effective to kill the COVID-19 virus is being used throughout the facility, day and night. CRCC has increased sanitation measures threefold, increasing the number of incarcerated individual workers. There is an emphasis on shared objects and surfaces, (i.e. telephones, Jpays, microwaves etc.) and these areas are being sanitized daily and after each use. A deep clean of the living units are also being completed on graveyard.

MSU Off-site crews have been suspended and those that were employed continue to work on extra sanitation efforts at the facility.

COVID – 19 Cases – No Incarcerated Individual has tested positive in any Washington State DOC facility. We have not had any staff members at CRCC that have tested positive for COVID-19.

Social Distancing – Social distancing is being encouraged within all areas of our facility for all staff and incarcerated individuals. Within the living units, individuals have been asked to keep a six (6) foot distance as much as possible to achieve social distancing. The number of simultaneous callouts is limited to avoid bunching up along with the number of individuals in classrooms/programming areas has been limited to achieve the six (6) foot distance between each person. Dining room access is being limited to two (2) persons per table and the units are called down one pod at a time and will be completely emptied of one unit before another unit will be allowed to enter. Dining table, door knobs, and all high touch areas will be disinfected between each unit use.

Work crews have been limited to no more than 10, depending upon the size of the work area to accommodate social distancing.

Activities – CRCC is working with a group of staff to come up with strategies to increase activities within the living units that promote social distancing, such as an art contest to design flyers for social distancing, a variety of puzzles, (i.e. Sudoku, word search, crossword puzzles, coloring pages). Ping pong tables have been ordered for those that don't have them in their units, extra games, puzzles, and card decks have been ordered and/or donated. Recreation staff are in the process of developing a free-throw contest so that the equipment can be sanitized between uses.

Screenings – No visitors or volunteers are being allowed to come in. Staff are being screened before the start of their shift.

For CI Food Factory and Textiles workers are being screened prior to reporting to their work area. All workers are asked questions regarding current symptoms and given a temperature check.

For them and any individual that may be experiencing flu-like symptoms, they are given a surgical mask and sent back to their unit and quarantined. Medical will be notified and an assessment will be completed.

Transports – Transfers are being minimized from facility to facility. Screenings for symptoms are being done before and after the transports. Hospital transports have been reduced to only those that absolutely need to be transported.

Communication to Population – CRCC management staff are meeting with the facility Tier Representatives daily to increase communication, hear concerns, and clarify existing directions.

Questions Received via Correspondence:

1. Are soap dispensers in the bathrooms in Camp and Minimum?
We have dispensers in all bathrooms throughout the facility.
2. Are soap bars being provided? (CDC Guidelines do not say it has to be a certain kind of soap.)
We have received extra hygiene supplies and each individual will be issued two (2) bars of soap.
3. I was informed that hand sanitizers are being made at Shelton. Is this correct?
We have no information in regards to this.

4. Social distancing is not being enforced by officers. Why is that?
We can assure you that social distancing has been made a priority and we are transitioning through this process, for both staff and incarcerated individuals.

We are encouraging everyone throughout the facility to maintain social distancing standards when feasible.

5. Why are we still transporting?
We are still transporting DOC individuals. All those who are on transport are screened before and after their transport. We are taking precautions for those individuals and our transportation staff.

6. How many pods are in quarantine in each specific unit?
All units have quarantined individuals as we quarantine in cell and not an entire pod.

7. What is the procedure for moving men out of pods/units and into quarantine?
Quarantined individuals are put on quarantine within their assigned units and cells. Those individuals who that are experiencing symptoms are isolated. CRCC has identified cells in our Restricted Housing unit and E Unit for isolation.

8. Are you still quarantining men to their cells?
Yes

9. Why are officers the only ones who have access to sanitizer?
Coyote Ridge allows staff the ability to bring their own sanitizer should they choose. Soap and water is our preferred handwashing method.

10. If the answer to the previous question is security risk, then can it be available at the officer station when the station is manned?
We do distribute hand sanitizer in locations where soap and warm water are not readily available.

11. Why are the officers the only ones who have access to wipe things down?
As stated prior, CRCC has increased our sanitation measures threefold, including deep cleaning of the living units during graveyard hours, as well as cleaning high touch surfaces daily and after each use. All incarcerated individuals have access to cleaning supplies and they are readily available if needed.

12. Attempting social distancing in chow, but they are being herded in like sardines to line up for it. This is counterproductive. Why can the food not be handed out in boats or Styrofoam containers and delivered to the units?

We have slowed down mainline and are serving only one pod (half a unit) at a time, before calling the other pod. Additionally we are cleaning the dining hall after each unit.

Today we have also started “grab and go” lunch, this will hopefully improve social distancing as well as decrease the time it takes to feed all individuals that are housed at the facility.

13. Hepastat does not kill the current virus, why is this form of “cleaning” being used if it is completely ineffective?

We are using PortionPac germicidal that is approved by the Health Department to be effective in killing the COVID-19 virus. The website for PortionPac information is www.portionpaccorp.com.

14. What is the green cleaner being used?

The green cleaner that we use throughout the facility is a heavy duty degreaser. This is not the same chemical as the germicidal disinfectant that is being used by sanitation crews.

15. Suggestion was that a new position be made for a couple of porters to clean strictly for the virus on handrails, phones, etc.

CRCC has hired several new porters to help aid in the cleaning and sanitation efforts of the facility. Additionally, those individuals that are not currently working due to closers, i.e. visitation and off-site work crews, are working within the facility as sanitation crews as well.

16. How was the officer handled who was coughing on everyone as a joke?

We have not received any information concerning this complaint. If there are individual concerns such as this we recommend that you reach out to us so that we can look into the concern.

17. What happened to the unit counselor and his wife (who was a cook) who were both quarantined?

We have no information that we can share concerning personnel related matters.

18. Temps being taken are unsanitary as the nurses cannot change gloves between men. Reports of men being threatened with infractions for not having their temperatures taken.

Our medical staff is being extremely diligent in regards to sanitation as we process both individuals and staff. If an individual refuses screening, they are asked to return to their unit and are not allowed to work. It is our hope that none of our individuals here are receiving infractions for refusing to be screened.

19. Is there any headway in the Mandamus submitted to the Supreme Court on the 23rd?

We are not aware.

20. Can there be more time added to video visits, or even free visits, and maybe more calls since these are particularly hard times for families?

Incarcerated Individuals have access to the Jpay's during dayroom hours, from approximately 7:00 am – 9:00 pm. They are also not available between approximately 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm during formal count. Jpay had noted that they will provide the following discounts for incarcerated individuals, their friends and families,

- **Reduced cost for inbound VideoGrams**
- **One free video visit credit per JPay account**
- **Two free stamps 9or credits0 each week credited individuals JPay accounts.**

Please visit www.jpays.com for offers that might be available.

Additional questions from family members:

1. Are off-site work crews still receiving their normal rate of pay?

Yes, they are receiving their normal rate.

2. Food is being brought to quarantined individuals, correct?

Yes.

3. Why can't we deliver everyone's meal?

We believe that it is important that the population has an opportunity to come out of the living unit, get some exercise and fresh air. Having meals in mainline affords them that opportunity.

4. What about the time it takes?
With slowing down the process to achieve the social distancing we have found that it is taking longer than normal as we have 2,500 individuals who are fed three times a day. This process on a normal schedule takes time. We have started a “grab and go” lunch today that will speed this process up.
5. The virus is spread through contact. Are you advising staff to stay home when not at work?
We share all available and pertinent information with staff and individuals. It is our hope that our staff are limiting their outside contact when not on shift.
6. Are there supplies around high-touch areas?
The cleaning supplies are available and can be accessed by all incarcerated individuals. High touch areas are a priority and porters are cleaning these areas regularly.
7. Are they washing their hands?
We have a multitude of supplies and information regarding handwashing throughout the facility.
8. With CI Textiles and Food Factory being screened, why not the kitchen workers?
Kitchen has increased their sanitation levels per flu protocols. CI (Correctional Industries) is making personal protective equipment (PPE) gowns during the shortage. The screening is to help mitigate the chances of spreading illness during this manufacturing process. Due
9. Is there a timeframe for when Visitation may reopen?
That will be a Department wide decision, and something that will most likely be decided by Headquarters.
10. Is CRCC testing for COVID-19?
When a health care practitioner determines there is a need.
11. How many have been tested?
Three individuals have been tested. Two are confirmed negative, results are pending on the third.
12. Are staff being tested? What are the results?
We have no known positive results for any CRCC staff member.

13. What happens when someone tests positive?
If we have an incarcerated individual test positive for COVID-19, the next steps would be determined after examination and treatment from our medical staff.
14. How many beds are there in the Segregation Unit?
There are 100 beds in our Restricted Housing unit, 30 of which have been identified for quarantine at this moment.
15. Those that are placed in Segregation for isolation, do they receive their property?
We have utilized the Restricted Housing Unit for the fact that individuals will then have access to TV. We are currently working on a process to streamline getting some of their property to include JPay players.
16. Are you working with Medical personnel?
We work very closely with our medical team. We also have a member of our medical personnel located at our Incident Command Center here at CRCC every day.
17. How would we know if our loved one was quarantined?
There is a specific time when quarantined individuals are allowed to exit their cell to have access to phones, kiosks, etc. That applies to isolated individuals as well.
18. Is there a pandemic plan?
Yes, there is a pandemic plan.
19. What is happening with religious activities?
We have created a modified religious activities schedule so that individuals can still participate in religious programs.
20. When will Recreation and Weight Deck resume?
The weight deck will be reopened when it is safe to do so. Recreation is still ongoing. Our staff have created a modified recreation schedule to accommodate one unit at a time. Recreation staff are also working on activities that may be done and still adhere to social distancing regulations.
21. Is everyone being informed? How?
We are constantly posting and updating information throughout the facility. All those at Coyote Ridge (individual and staff) are being updated when new

information is available. Additionally a member of management is meeting with the unit tier representatives to provide feedback, hear concerns, and share information.

22. Why are we still transporting and moving people?

We can't close our doors due to releases and population flow unless it is unsafe to do so.

23. Has there been an increase in violence?

We have not noticed an increase in violence and we are thankful for that.

24. Will there be more conference calls?

Yes, we will schedule another conference call in two weeks unless there are any changes that we feel we need to meet sooner. Please do not hesitate to send any questions that you may have to Associate Superintendent Michelle Duncan at miduncan@doc.wa.gov.

Please visit DOC.WA.GOV for updates on COVID-19, J-pay, and memos regarding protocol and policy changes as this website is being updated daily.

Thank you for taking the time to teleconference with us.