

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 7/3/2020, 9:00 am

Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**

- **DOC Staff:**

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Michelle Duncan, Assoc. Superintendent

Bill Copland, Family Services

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant 3

Tim Taylor, Health Services Manager

Lori Wonders, CRCC Public Information Officer

- **OMBUDS**

Caitlin Robertson, Assistant Ombuds

- Please note:

- Questions for upcoming meetings are to be emailed to Kate Jansen at catherine.jansen@doc1.wa.gov no later than 8:00am Thursday. Any questions received afterwards will be held over to the next week or if time allows asked during the end of the conference call.
- Thursday mornings, questions will be categorized and reviewed by Associate Superintendent and Superintendent to have responses ready for the teleconference Friday at 9:00am.
- Some questions were grouped together as they were asked by more than one person.

- Additional guidelines:

- Meeting time will be one (1) hour.
- We will answer all the questions first and open up for questions/comments afterwards.
- If any questions are left unanswered at the end of the meeting, we will add them to the next meeting.
- Please ensure your phones are on mute.
- Please provide your name before asking a question or responding to assist.

- LFC representatives are free to gather questions to ask, and to share responses; however, these calls truly need to be limited to LFC members in order to be productive, and to ensure that participation in these interactions can continue.

- **Please do not share Local Family Council information calls phone-In Information with others, especially via social media.**

- If you, or you know someone that has a loved one at CRCC and would like to be added to the LFC list to receive call in information, meeting minutes and other correspondence the facility may send out please send an email to Catherine.jansen@doc.wa.gov or miduncan@doc1.wa.gov.

Weekly Update

Testing

Staff – All staff at CRCC are now being tested every week. We have 51 staff members that have tested positive during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Incarcerated Individuals – All incarcerated individuals have been tested. Those that have tested positive are notified immediately and moved to a separate location together. Those whose test was inconclusive were moved together to another location, and those that tested negative remained in their housing unit. Those that were inconclusive were retested and moved according to the outcome of those tests or will be retested for the double negative. Additionally, all the MI3 custody living units have been given a second test for double negatives. Incarcerated individuals will be given a copy of their test results by Health Services.

Current population: 1772

Positive: 195

Inconclusive: 30

Transferred to a RCF: 107

In hospital: 0

Negative: 1547

Isolation: 113

Temporary Alternate Housing

Housing locations include the Gym, 50 beds; Chapel, 20 beds; and two 75 person tents. These tents are fully functional with HVAC systems, areas for dayrooms and areas for eating. There are also portable showers and restrooms available. A shower schedule has been developed to allow for three (3) 10 minutes showers per week for each person. There are phones available in the area and incarcerated individuals that are moved to this area are given an opportunity to make a phone call to inform families of their current status. Because the intent of this housing is short term and limited supply of phones there is no schedule to use them regularly. This will continue to be monitored and adjusted if they are housed for any length of time.

These areas have no access to WIFI with the exception of one of tents that are lucky enough to pick up one of the signals. We also do not have KIOSKS in these areas. There are no plans to put WIFI/KIOSKS as the intent of this housing is short term. All incarcerated individuals will continue to have access to staff, kites, letters, and grievance forms to communicate with us.

Property – All incarcerated individuals that are temporarily assigned to the alternate housing location are required to bring all of their property with them. They are allowed to have 2 boxes at their bunk area to include their JPay. All additional property and electronics will be maintained in a designated storage location within the alternate housing location.

We will not provide specific information, based on their tests results, on who is being housed in which alternative housing location.

Medium Unit Operations

Effective 07/02/20, the operation of the 3 of the medium units have changed to allow for some outside time and more dayroom access. Yesterday units B and D units were allowed outside in cohorts, for 30 minutes to walk around the sidewalk. E and C units will be allowed outside access today. In addition to their outside time, all medium custody units are being allowed one hour out in the dayrooms by tiers.

MI3 operations

Unit operations in the MI3 custody units will remain the same at this time, with the exception of access to the outside fresh air pad during their 30 minute dayroom access. The MI3 units were tested a second time. Once the results have been received, we will look at opening up more out time for these individuals also.

Pre-Exposed Questions

Question 1

What are the accurate numbers for the test results? There was a discrepancy of 239 test results. We presume those are the inconclusive tests? 1846-1547 negative=299; 299-60 positive=239 left over.

Answer

I have provided the numbers as we know it today above.

Question 2

Inconclusive test results mean that the tested individual has had the virus. How are you treating those results? For instance, are you placing them in with the positive tested individuals, negative, what?

Answer

For those individuals whose test results come back inconclusive, they will be moved together and are being housed as if they are positive and a repeat test is given. Once we receive the results of the second test, and if positive, they will be moved to the separate location with other positive incarcerated individuals and if the results are negative, they are tested again to complete the new double negative test protocol. If they receive a double negative then they will be moved back to their normal housing unit.

Question 3

"They have been allowed to bring their property with them." This is what was sent by email from Michelle. That is contradictory to being told they only can take 2 boxes of stuff with them and the rest will be stored until further notice. Which is accurate?

Answer

This has been answered above.

Question 4

We already know the WIFI is not available to those in the hole. We are asking if an officer or staff person can take the players TO a KIOSK and sync them so that the players will continue to work and they can access their downloaded data. You stated on several calls in the beginning that this will happen. It has yet to. Can it? We would like for the JPay players to be synced at the 30 day mark so their players do not stop working.

Answer

On previous calls we stated that we will look into if there is a way we can make this happen. Unfortunately we are unable to achieve this due to issues with the passcodes and the movement in OMNI.

Question 5

Please provide exact information about who will be housed with who and who will be transferred out of CRCC and the criteria for making that transfer decision. There has been MUCH confusion on this topic.

Answer

We will not provide exact information about who will be housed with who. However, as stated above, double negative tests are being housed together, positive tests are being housed together, and inconclusive are temporarily being housed together. In regards to transfers those who are testing double negative and are due to be transferred for a number of reasons may be able to complete this transfer. Incarcerated individuals who test positive may be transferred to another facility to be nearer medical resources and to ensure the CRCC can continue to move the population around, to accommodate the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Question 6

How can it be humanly possible for an inmate to be double negative tested AND be on a 14 day quarantine before being transferred to another facility? Your email response was that they have already been on a 14 day quarantine. This is true, but NOT after being tested twice. Please explain the math as it does not add up.

Answer

All incarcerated individuals in CRCC have completed a 14 day quarantine period. As an extra precaution, we have been able to complete a double negative testing result before an incarcerated individual is transferred to another facility. As they have been on quarantine status for a 14+ day period of time, there is no medical reason to believe that after two negative test they will be carrying the virus with them to another facility.

Question 7

Are the tents at CRCC being used at this point and for what or whom exactly?

Answer

Yes, tents are being used as temporary alternate housing. As previously stated we will not provide specific information as to who is being housed in which alternative housing location.

Question 8

Why are men being transferred all over the state? We are getting reports that Clallam Bay and Airway are receiving chains from CRCC?

Answer

There have been transfers out of CRCC that has occurred, to making room in preparation of the mass testing results.

Question 9

We received a memo on Friday that men would not be transferred from CRCC unless they are double negative tested and have been on quarantine for 14 days before being transported. That has clearly not happened since Friday.

Answer

Individuals who are transferred out of the facility have received two negative COVID-19 tests, and as the facility has been on a quarantine status over 14 days, also have satisfied a 14 day quarantine precaution.

Question 10

There is also a mystery memo that has been sent out to some inmates but not others, and certainly not family members nor elected "officers," that contradicts the first memo stating CRCC *will* in fact be sending out men.

Answer

I have sent Superintendent Uttecht's memo dated June 27, 2020 with the notes from our last call. This memo does not contradict Assistant Secretary Robert Herzog memo dated 06/26/20 and addresses the potential need for transfers. This memo was directed to be issued to all individuals and sent out on the KIOSK.

Question 11

We are also hearing the tents are not usable and not staffed therefore you are mixing men whose results have not been received with those who are inconclusive and those who are positive

Answer

This is not accurate information. All of our alternative housing assignments of fully staffed. The information discussed prior is the accurate information. All similar testing results are housed together.

Question 12

AND positive cases being sent to other prisons.

Answer

The facility is transferring positive cases in the same fashion we have been prior to the mass testing. There are identified COVID-19 treatment facilities that are ready to specifically treat this population. These facilities include the Regional Care Facilities at AHCC, the COVID-19 medical unit at Monroe Correctional Complex, within CRCC to the positive housing location and isolation and the local medical resources we are working with. Any information other than this, is a rumor.

Question 13

Men are reporting that the fun packs or those activity packets that we were told are being supplied, are not. Can you please distribute them?

Answer

I have followed up with our Recreation Department and unit staff to ensure they are given out when received.

Question 14

Can CRCC get those knock off Game Boys for the men in isolation so they have more to do?

Answer

Those are available for those in isolation.

Question 15

Can AA and NA books be provided for those who request them so that those in recovery are able to help themselves when they cannot go to meetings?

Answer

They should work with their counselors on obtaining those items as needed.

Question 16

Not all kiosks work and as we all know, there is VERY LITTLE time for the men to get on one anyway in order to receive correspondence. Can you please make sure that all memos are hand delivered so there are no more mystery memos that not all II receive?

Answer

The expectation is that these are hand delivered to all incarcerated who do not have access to the KIOSK. We will continue to monitor this to ensure they are appropriately delivered.

Question 17

Our men are being yelled at and still not being let out to use the restroom. Several have told us wives they have accidents. When will you stop treating them like dogs in a kennel? Please let them out to use the restroom.

Answer

We have not received any complaints in the last week regarding their ability to use the restroom. If you believe this is still happening I would recommend encouraging your loved one to file a complaint, speak with the unit manager, or send a kite. You may also email me directly if you have a specific individual concerns.

Question 18

Why are memos being released that state in basic terms that because our men did not follow social distancing and use PPE that they have brought COVID on themselves? We have told you on every single call that staff do

not do either of these. The staff brought this on the entire prison. We understand it was not on purpose; however, the damage is done and it is not the fault of our husbands and fathers and uncles and sons-please quit treating them like they are lower than the dirt on CRCCs shoes.

Answer

The referenced memo was discussed on the last call. The intention behind that memo was not to place blame on any individual, but was to remind the population the importance to follow the COVID-19 precautionary measures that are in place. The facility understands how the incarcerated population could interpret the inference and we apologize for any misinterpretation.

Question 19

I am quite sure CDC would tell you the test are ALL invalid if they knew the staff were having the men do their own tests! How do you reconcile that for the CDC and Health Department?

Answer

The Department of Corrections did not administer the mass testing that took place at Coyote Ridge. The Department of Health, Benton Franklin Health District, and the National Guard worked together to administer these tests to the population and staff here at the facility.

Question 20

When the 2nd test results come back negative, will those men be off lockdown and able to access fresh air and the kiosks, showers, etc.? All of the stuff they had access to before and for how long?

Answer

Yes, we are working on plans to open up additional time in the dayrooms after all the test results come back in the MI3 units. The fresh air pads are currently opened.

Question 21

Will we be able to call the prison or email for updates or to check on our love ones?

Answer

Yes, you may call in however we will not provide any medical information without a ROI on file. All incarcerated individuals have also been reminded of this process, the process has been posted on the DOC COVID-19 webpage and can be found in the significant event report. If you would like to reach out to me, I can help navigate that for you.

Question 22

Will a Dayroom schedule be provided to the inmates so they can plan legal calls and family communications accordingly?

Answer

We will work with the incident command to ensure communication is distributed as soon as we have a solid dayroom schedule.

Question 23

Will buildings where everyone tested negative have the restricted movement lifted and they will return to normal dayroom access?

Answer

This will be a gradual transition and continued to be monitored depending on that status of the living units.

Question 24

Will the staff who tested negative be only going into units that all tested negative? In other words, there will be no cross-contamination from CO's moving between units with positive cases to units will negative cases.

Answer

At this moment there is no restriction on staff that work at CRCC to only work on one campus or in one unit. All staff are given the required PPE to wear in in locations where there are positive cases.

Question 25

If restricted movement continues, are the long transition times between early and late being addressed in E block? My husband was confined for 36 hours between Sunday and Monday this week, and for 32 hours again from Tuesday to Wednesday. That is a long time to not have access to showers or fresh water or ice. The extended confinement is causing undue emotional stress on your population.

Answer

We are continually monitoring this and continuing to work towards opening up those eligible units to provide more time out.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Why was my son not given his results, I think it is because he tested negative.

Answer

All incarcerated individuals will be given written copies of their test results.

Question 2

Yesterday in the kitchen I was told that there was an individual that was working in the kitchen that was taken out because he tested positive and he working in the dietary area and handling the food. The food that he was handling was still served to individuals. Then I was told he was taken out for UA, but then told you guys weren't testing for urine screening right now?

Answer

We have no information on that issue at this time. If you could provide details in an email we will be able to look into it.

Question 3

Michelle you mentioned there are individuals in isolation but if there are positives in the tents and gym why are you still counting people for isolation?

Answer

Those positives in the alternate location are also considered isolation. Those that are in the restricted housing units are symptomatic and those in the alternate housing units are non-symptomatic.

Question 4

Are transfers going to be looked at for those that are negative to transfer to other facilities?

Answer

Transfers out of CRCC will resume when safe to do so. There have been some transfers out of CRCC for capacity needs. When additional transfers will resume outside of that we are unable to respond at this time.

Question 5

Can Mr. Taylor please state his email address and get closer to the telephone so we can hear him?

Answer

tjtaylor@doc1.wa.gov

Question 6

Do you feel you are getting a better handle on this?

Answer

Yes, we believe the testing was a positive move to help identify where those cases are. We are cautiously optimistic but once we get whatever handle on this that we get the problem does not go away. Social distancing, wearing masks and comply continues. We talk on a daily basis about the fatigue associated with all these restrictions, not only on incarcerated population but the staff so getting real optimistic we are concerned they will let their guard down. So we are careful to talk like it is over because it is not. The same message that you have heard from us from the beginning, social distance, wash your hands, wear a mask that is going to continue so as we lighten the restriction our enforcing of social distancing will continue. We started yesterday by allowing some folks to get outside and our first issue was social distancing. We immediately go back into we have to be careful because the threat of infection has not left this place.

Question 7

Do you have any idea why the number of inmate tested positive has gone so much higher just in the last few days.

Answer

We have started testing all individuals at CRCC. So those that were positive that did not have any symptoms are now showing positive. So it is going up because of the testing.

Question 8

Clarifying question for the inconclusive results. From what it sounds like there will be a total of 4 test for those individuals because the first one was negative, second one inconclusive, then they will be given an additional two tests. Is that correct.

Answer

Yes, that is a possibility. If the scenario above happened they would have 4 tests.

Question 9

So those individuals that are inconclusive that are housed in a four man cell what will happen with those individuals if they had two double negatives. I'm just concerned if you have an inconclusive and they get tested again and it comes up positive then they just exposed all of the inconclusive and they already obviously exposed their cellmates, so are there going to be tracing done on those individuals?

Answer

Those that come back inconclusive are moved out of the area. The cell mates were also tested at the time so if one of the cell mates came back inconclusive he would also move. If not he will remain in the unit. We continue to do the mapping process in which individuals may continue to be placed on quarantine if something that you described were to happen. We continue to track all of that.

Question 10

You said that M13 was going to remain the same as far as 30 minutes at a time but you also said you looked at the individual units opening them up. So let's say that if F unit results are back today because it will be the third

day then will F have more restrictions lifted? Because it seems like the medium units have been treated differently, is MI3 going to be lifted and individually assessed?

Answer

We are currently waiting for all the test results back from the MI3 living units before we look at opening some of those restrictions, yes. All the test results have come back from the Medium units.

Question 11

When was the last test taken for MI3?

Answer

It was Wednesday. Just to note the tests do not always come back as neatly as they go out so we may not get all of F unit back on Friday and all of I unit on Saturday for example. We will wait because the results of those double negatives, positives, or inconclusive are going to create more movement within the facility to manage before we can look at opening up some of that time.

Question 12

Was the one hour at a time alternating tiers, that you guys are opening up in the medium units, was that one hour a day or alternating?

Answer

It is one hour dayroom access every day. Effective 07/05/20 in the medium units, 16 cells at a time can come out for 2.5 hours a day plus a 30 minute walk outside.

Question 13

How are we supposed to address mail? Do we put the housing unit on the envelope or leave it off?

Answer

We have documentation that shows where the mail is and all the mail will be delivered to their alternate location.

Question 14

Do we need to put that information on the outside of the envelope, DOC # and address? Your mailroom is returning mail that has full unit addresses on them as incorrect, they are not looking up where folks are now.

Answer

We will talk with the mailroom staff about that. They should be looking it up finding their current housing location and forwarding to that location.

Question 15

Since Medium is getting out more often, do we have an idea of when video visits will be returned to us?

Answer

No we do not have that timeline at this time. It is a goal to get that going as soon as possible.

Question 16

Can you tell us when the second test for the negative folks for all of Medium? They had their first test.

Answer

We are not doing mass double testing for the medium units because of the limited number of positive cases over there. We did do some of the selective areas that had some issues but not double testing all of them. We have to double test all the MI3's due to the spread of the virus in those units.

Question 17

So by your logic no one will be transferred without a second negative test but you are not providing that are due to a promotion in medium. That seems awful convenient.

Answer

Well we are not transferring anyone out of the mediums right now and if we were to transfer someone out of the mediums they would receive another test.

Question 18

So all the transfers that were done last week were demotions?

Answer

Not necessarily but they were out of one unit, our restricted housing unit to open bed space.

Question 19

So I should let my loved one know that has been waiting for four months for a promotion transfer that you have no intention of double testing him and get him out there anytime soon. That is what the consequences of your actions are.

Answer

That is not what we said. Thank you for your comment.

Question 8

Are negative people being retested again?

Answer

Those in the MI3 custody living units are being tested again. Those in the medium custody only needed one negative test with the expectation of a few areas that the doctors determined needed the second test. In regards to transferring, all those that are transferred from CRCC will receive a double negative test before they are transferred.

Question 9

I'm just trying to get this all straight because it doesn't sound like it is being very consistent with the double negative test. I can't wrap my mind around why every individual would not receive a double negative test if staff is being limited to where they are working.

Answer

There is a lot of things that we are doing that is a very complicated process and sometimes it is very hard to explain. The decisions of who will be tested and who will not be tested and/or who will receive a second test are made in collaboration with the Health Services Department, Benton Franklin Health Department, Department of Health and our doctors.

Question 10

Can Mr. Taylor confirm that he approved of the discrepancy between double testing minimum and only single testing medium?

Answer

No, it is not a discrepancy but a decision that was made. When we are saying it was a decision that was made it may sound like Mr. Taylor made that decision it is at a HQ level. The decision that was made was that we are only testing medium side once based on the results because there was not that many positives it was decided it did not make sense to test again. Because we got such good numbers on the medium side we have been able to move towards more movement so that is good news. Because the numbers were not so good on the minimum

side, we are testing again to see where exactly the issue is and what units are having problems so we can try to get the whole prison back to a new normal.

Question 7

So what person in particular should be address this question to at HQ?

Answer

That would be a good question to have the CRCC Statewide Family Council representative to bring forward to the meeting.

Question 8

It was mentioned that transfer from Monroe would be there today and they weren't tested again. Where are they going to be housed at?

Answer

They will be housed together as one group until we have finished the movement within the facility. Those individuals were positive and completed the convalescing time so we will keep together in one area as an extra precautionary measure.

Question 9

And then you will retest them again?

Answer

No once an individual tests positive we do not retest.

Question 10

So as far as staff that tests positive how long is there period away from work and since they are given tests every 7 days and those that test positive are they given a test every 7 days.

Answer

The staff are treated the same as the incarcerated. If positive they are contacted by the Occupational Nurse consultant, they are quarantine for 14 days after their last symptom. If they have already tested positive we do not serial test them here. Because they have already had it and recovered.

Question 11

How many inconclusive staff tests are there and are you treating them the same as the positives?

Answer

Yes, if a staff member were tested as inconclusive they would get retested.

Question

How many pending test results are there, you did not answer that at the beginning of the call?

Answer

I cannot answer that question, we do not have that number. We have retested all of our MI3 units and those are trickling in every hour so I do not know what

Question

I am still confused, so you are staying when they are positive they are just doing their 14 days and then released back to their housing without being tested?

Answer

They will do their 14 days in isolation and then there is one week of convalescing time and then released back to the living unit. They are not retested because they have already tested positive.

Question

Are you saying that because if they test positive they will continue to test positive. I think that is where the confusion may be.

Answer

We don't know that, I believe that is the thought.

- If you have any individual questions or concerns please feel free to send me an email, miduncan@doc1.wa.gov and I will respond as soon as I can.
- Thank you for joining us. The next call will be Friday July 10, 2020 at 9:00am.