

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center**

**Date and Time:** 7/10/2020, 9:00 am

## Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**

- **DOC Staff:**

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant 3

Michelle Duncan, Assoc. Superintendent

Ken Jennings, 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](mailto:catherine.jansen@doc1.wa.gov) no later than 8:00am Thursday.
  - All questions received afterwards will be held over to the next week or if time allows asked during the end of the conference call.
  - All questions sent to our staff before the informational sharing phone call during the week, will be answered on the Friday phone calls or forwarded onto DOCCOVID19@DOC.WA.GOV for appropriate response.
- 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.

- 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 informational 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](mailto:Catherine.jansen@doc.wa.gov) or [miduncan@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:miduncan@doc1.wa.gov).

## Weekly Update

### Testing

**Staff** – CRCC continues to test all CRCC staff weekly. We have 54 staff members that have tested positive during the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Incarcerated Individuals** – All incarcerated individuals should be receiving copies of the test results and we will continue to issue those out as fast as we can get them processed and sent out for delivery. All MI3 custody living units will be given an additional COVID test starting today.

Current population: 1787

Positive: 229

Inconclusive: 0

Transferred to a RCF: 107

In hospital: 0

Negative: 1558

Isolation: 116

Quarantine: 1671

### Medium Unit Operations – B, C, D, E Units

All medium units are allowed out of their cells for 2.5 hours a day. They are also given 30 minute outside time for walking every other day.

### MI3 Operations-F, G, H, I Units

Unit operations in the MI3 custody units will remain the same at this time with 30 minutes out daily and access to the fresh air pads during the 30 minutes out. Once the results of the additional test has been received and evaluated, the facility will reevaluate the MI3 dayroom times.

### Alternate Housing Location

Telephones have been installed in the in tents, they should be up and running by the end of the day. We are also looking to see if Wi-Fi can be reached out in the alternate housing location.

## Pre-Exposed Questions

### Question 1

Is everyone still receiving soap on a regular basis in the entire facility? We are being told by our LO's that yet again they are not receiving it. If not, why?

#### Answer

Soap continues to be available in the living units for your loved ones. We are no longer delivering the soap to each cell but is available at no charge if requested. They may request soap when retrieving meals, when unit officer are conducting tier checks, or when they have dayroom time. We have sent out correspondence via KIOSK to the population to ensure they are aware that they can request it as needed.

## Question 2

Can you please give the layout of the housing units? For instances the tents house who? Positive, negatives, inconclusive are all where? Education houses who? Units A B C, houses who? Etc.

### Answer

As mentioned on last week's call, we will not provide specific information, based on their tests results, on who is being housed in which alternative housing location. We are not housing any individuals in education at CRCC- MSC. Unit A is restricted housing. Units B, C, D, E is considered Medium custody units and Units F, G, H, and I are MI3 (minimum) custody units.

## Question 3

Why are you guys mixing everyone up still? Past positive with negatives, double negatives with inconclusive etc. You are not going to stop the spread this way. You guys are also moving people around so much there is no way there is not going to be another spike. Can you please clarify why this is happening?

### Answer

As mentioned on the last call, those that are positive are housed together and those that are negative are housed together. Those that are inconclusive are housed as one cohort and retested. Once retested they are housed based on the outcome of that test, so if positive they move to the positive area, if negative they get another test and if that test is negative they are being moved back to a housing unit and housed together as a cohort. For those that have fully recovered and returned to the facility are being housed together as one cohort. While you may not all understand this, the movement that is taking place is being conducted as a means to manage and control the spread.

All our movement have been reviewed by a group of doctors and deemed appropriate.

## Question 4

What is the schedule for each unit/housing area?

### Answer

The MI3 custody living units are on a schedule, 2 cells at a time that rotates daily. The Medium custody units are on a rotation, in which every 16 cells come out daily for 2.5 hours. This also rotates. We cannot provide you a specific schedule that says who will come out and when. Your loved ones in the pod are aware of their schedule and can inform you.

## Question 5

Since your pay is public record and if need be can be publicly disclosed, how much is your regular pay vs the hazard pay you are getting for dealing with the virus that you guys brought into the prison? The CO's pay vs hazard pay is of interest as well as is that of Michelle Duncan, Jeff Uttecht, the Captain and the medical staff. Please disclose.

### Answer

We will not disclose our wages and this is not the intent of these calls. You may request this information through the public disclose unit.

## Question 6

We have still been unable to have the mental health concerns of our LO be addressed in regard to the 8<sup>th</sup> amendment rights which are being violated on a regular basis, namely by not allowing our Loved ones out of their cells for at least 1 hour a day as the supreme courts deemed necessary when talking about confinement. Let them out for one hour, let them have fresh air, let them call us without having to decide if they will have time if they choose take a shower that day. With JPay being so slow and shotty, the little they have is

imperative yet very limited. You cannot say you are unaware of the law that states those in confinement have to be let out at least one full hours because the state adheres to it, but since COVID, you no longer think this is necessary. Please address this.

Answer

We have addressed this on several calls to date. We are responding to an unprecedented pandemic and we are not aware of any laws requiring an hour of “out” time. We have implemented more time out for those areas that are safe to do so and continue to work on evaluating other areas. As soon as it is safe to do we will move towards more out time for those areas also.

### Question 7

Will they have a choice to take the additional test? If they refuse will they be punished? Or will they go to alternate housing with the other inconclusive tests?

Answer

If an individual refuses to be tested, they will be treated as a positive and placed into isolation.

## Additional Questions

### Question 1

Is the isolation unit receiving one hour out a day? What about the ones that are in there for behavioral issues?

Answer

Isolation is not for punishment. Isolation is in our restrictive housing unit as well as an alternate housing location. It is for slowing the spread of the disease. If they have disciplinary issues, they are placed in segregation. If an individual is in isolation it means that they are symptomatic. Our protocol is that they are let out every seven days for a shower and to make a phone call. If a person refuses a test, we have to treat them as if they are a positive case. This is for the safety of the rest of the individuals as well as the staff. Segregation and isolation are completely different circumstances, even if it is the same building.

### Question 2

Why is it so bad at your location but no other prisons? Who is actually doing the infection control? From what we are hearing is that you are taking these guys out of cells and then not sanitizing the cells before letting other individuals in there. You can't continue to do this.

Answer

I would encourage you to look at the COVID-19 website. All of people that we partner and/or comply with during this pandemic is on there. I have been doing this for four months and I can tell you that we have fully disclosed everything we can to you. All individuals have access to disinfecting and sanitizing materials so that they can clean their cells. If they don't feel that they have access, I would recommend that they talk to unit staff to get access to those supplies. If your loved one feels that something needs to be resolved, we have process for them to be able to file a complaint.

### Question 3

Are these calls being recorded?

Answer

No.

#### Question 4

Mr. Jennings, who is making the medical decisions?

#### Answer

There are a number of medical and department employees that are involved in making these decisions. This comes from Headquarters.

#### Question 5

I understand that that you are under the supervision of the National Guard, is this who will be making decisions regarding video visits?

#### Answer

The National Guard is assisting us with testing. They are not controlling the prison. Those decisions will be made by the Department.

#### Question 6

Is there anyone being housed in the Visitation Room or the EFV?

#### Answer

We don't have anyone currently housed in the EFV or in the Visitation Room at CRCC-MS. We have housed a couple individuals in the EFV units due to the medical equipment needs that cannot be met in the alternate housing locations.

#### Question 7

People that are testing negative that have been approved to move why is that not happening?

#### Answer

At the moment, we cannot move them until we have control of the virus. Once we have confirmation that we have controlled the spread, we can look at transferring people. The only transfers we are currently doing is for medical purposes. We have moved some people out of our restricted housing area. They were moved to provide more space so that we have more space for individuals on isolation.

#### Question 8

If someone is in restricted housing for behavioral issues, why wouldn't you give the same courtesy to someone that hadn't committed that violation?

#### Answer

I understand your concern. We don't want to limit movement the way we are. However, we do have movement and they do come out regularly. We need to make sure that there are no active cases before we can start allowing more time out. That decision is made collaboratively with Headquarters and medical doctors. We want to give them more time out. However, if we don't have this managed, it is just going to flare back up again.

#### Question 9

In the 30 minute rotation, do you let out the same cells or do those change as well?

#### Answer

We did identify some of that happening and we have since stopped that. It should be the same two cells out at a time. We have tightened that schedule up significantly to make sure that that doesn't happen again.

#### Question 10

Testing is done every seven days for inmates?

#### Answer

No. Testing is done every seven days for staff.

#### Question 11

My loved one has received four tests since this started.

#### Answer

It is possible that they may have tested more depending on the results of the tests. Hypothetically, we had someone test negative, then test inconclusive, then we tested negative again, and so they need to be tested again for a double negative.

#### Question 12

So you are taking individuals that have tested positive out of the cells, and then instructing a person who tested negative to clean it?

#### Answer

Yes. The cell should be cleaned. We have porters in the units that clean the empty cells, they are in full PPE to include gown, surgical mask, gloves, and face shield. I reminded our unit management staff to be sure to be aware of this expectation. Additionally, we provide everyone with the tools they need to clean those cells. We have seen many individuals cleaning their cells. If your loved one has any issues getting those sorts of supplies, we need to know about it so that we can correct that issue.

#### Question 13

Is OSHA involved at your facility? How do we know that they are cleaning those cells properly? Is there safety personnel that are coming into the cells to ensure that they are cleaning these properly?

#### Answer

We have one Safety Officer here. She does oversee the porters and ensure that they are properly trained to disinfect and sanitize, as well as use all the chemicals and supplies that are offered.

#### Question 14

Are they wearing face shields when they clean?

#### Answer

No. They are wearing gloves and surgical masks. If they are cleaning an area with suspected COVID, they follow the required PPE protocol. There is specific PPE that is required for specific places within the facility, and they are following that PPE guideline.

#### Question 15

I am trying to figure out if you are following proper protocol in regards to cleaning those cell.

#### Answer

Yes we are. If there are instances where we are not, we need to know about it so that we can correct it.

#### Question 16

Do you monitor your officer's Facebook pages? If you did, I think you would be shocked at the type of people that you have working for you.

#### Answer

I can't respond to that.

#### Question 17

What doctor determined that more testing was needed in the MI3?

Answer

There was a number of people involved in that decision.

Question 18

Are the inmates being told that they are going into a cell that housed another positive inmate?

Answer

No. We do not disclose someone's test results to another individual. It is part of contact tracing and those cells should be cleaned properly.

Question 19

Are the medical officers JCAHO certified?

Answer

I don't know.

Question 20

There is only one officer in the MI3 units and it is still hard to let them out to use the restroom. You need to let our loved ones out. You also need to get you staff to wear there mask, get them training and let them know how important it is because they still aren't doing it.

Answer

There are a lot of officers in those units. That is inaccurate information. The cells are not double locked and they have the ability to get out if needed. The mask compliance is always an issue with those that work here and those that live here. We have all had to be reminded.

- Thank you for joining us. The next call will be Friday July 10, 2020 at 9:00am.