

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 7/17/2020, 9:00 am

Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**

- **DOC Staff:**

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Michelle Duncan, Assoc. Superintendent

Jeff Kinne, Investigator 3

Gheorghe Turcin, Family Services

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant 3

Tim Taylor, Health Services Manager

- **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.
 - 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 or miduncan@doc1.wa.gov.

Weekly Update

Testing

Staff – CRCC continues to test all CRCC staff weekly. We have 55 staff members that have tested positive during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Incarcerated Individuals

Current population: 1783

Positive: 230

Inconclusive: 12

Transferred to a RCF: 107

In hospital: 0

Negative: 1658

Isolation: 125

Quarantine: 706

MI3 operations

CRCC has seen a lot of positive progress with the testing and controlling of the spread of this virus. All of the last group of tests in the MI3 units came back negative with the exception of the 12 inconclusive. The inconclusive that we have received back are treated as a presumptive positive and moved to isolation and will be re-tested. Their cell mates are quarantined for 14 days or until the individual that was inconclusive test results come back negative twice.

While we have received test results back and have seen very good results, we still have many pockets of quarantined cohort individuals that we must continue to control to ensure that there someone does not start to develop symptoms.

It is more important now than ever that we ensure that we progress slowly with regards to movement and ensure that those cohorts of quarantined individuals are not interacting with those other cohorts. 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. Our current plan has been developed and goes through Tuesday July 21st. At that time we will be developing a new plan and look at slowly opening things up.

Similar to the governor's order of the phase system in our communities, CRCC will also do a slow phased movement. This is a very important piece to continue to keep moving forward on all the progress that we have made thus far.

Alternate Housing location

Those that are in our alternate housing location will begin to move back to the MI3 units for those that have completed their convalescing time. We plan to have all individuals moved out of the tents within the next 2 weeks.

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

There has been no changes to the Medium units. All medium units are allowed out of their cells for 2.5 hours a day, on a rotational basis. They are also given 30 minute outside time for walking every other day.

Pre-Exposed Questions

Question 1

Is maintenance vacuuming the air ducts in the facility? I've been told by my husband that they are loaded with dust and dirt and there's no way clean air is circulating through these?

Answer

There is a schedule for air ducts to be vacuumed out within the facility but depends on the location of those ducts. The air ducts in the rooms are filtered air and the air filters are changed quarterly; therefore they are not vacuumed. The vents themselves do collect dust but is the incarcerated individual's responsibility to clean those as part of the requirement room cleaning.

Question 2

While in isolation, how can incarcerated individuals practice hygiene on the other 6 days they can't take a shower?

Answer

They are provided soap and water and can take a sponge bath.

Question 3

If isolation was segregation, is already staffed that way for the number of men who would be in the unit or area, the men would already not be showing together, and all persons are to be following proper PPE etiquette, why can they not shower more than once a week? What if you had medical issues that required hygiene? I am sure you would not want to smell or have crevasses itch and sweat. We are asking for the sake of our LO's that you readdress this issue. Can you please do that?

Answer

We are working under medical advisement and the medical protocol that has been established. Per the current protocol, for medical isolation, patients should be offered showers starting after day 7. This protocol is similar to that of a hospital or nursing home as well, however those facilities tend to have a private shower location for individuals. As our facilities are shared resources, to prevent shedding the virus during the high shedding period, one shower in 7 days is the established time frame.

Question 4

Moldy bread was given to incarcerated individuals over the weekend. How can you guys continue to do this kind of thing to our LOs? Would you eat moldy bread?

This is regarding the disgusting moldy, expired food you force on our loved ones. Apparently each week samples of the food would be sent to the lab for testing but that has stopped. Why has that stopped and why are our loved ones made to endure this horrific food?

Answer

If your loved one received outdated or moldy food he should immediately notify the officer on duty for inspection so that we can replace the meal. The boats that are delivered are frozen and therefore extends out the life of the product and stays fresh past their date noted for example the chips. Our food does not, nor has it ever been sent to a lab for testing. The facility has protocols in place for incarcerated individuals to contact staff for issues such as this. It is important that if this happens if they experience this.

Question 5

Why was the cohort, upon return from Monroe, placed in a unit of all negative men when that whole cohort returning had obviously tested positive...why are they being mixed together? This may be a concern for the men in that unit who all tested negative.

Answer

Those that have returned from Monroe have completed the required convalescing time and are no longer contagious. There is no medical concern with those individuals being placed back into general population.

Question 6

When will the testing be concluded? Are we Close?

Answer

The facility has implemented a mass testing effort and continued serial testing effort of staff in the facility. We have discussed the completion of the tests for the MI3 units. At this time there is no plans to do any additional mass testing's; however, there may still be a need for individual tests as determined by the medical staff.

Question 7

The CO's don't wear their masks. This is seen daily and my brother is in a negative areas. Who is supervising them and who is going to enforce it? The CO's are the ones who brought this virus into the facility and are responsible for the cruel and unusual punishment of our loved ones are enduring.

Answer

We continue to monitor compliance with the proper use of PPE's with all staff and incarcerated individuals. If someone is found to not be in compliance it is addressed appropriately.

Question 8

What is the status about getting Jpay kiosks into the tents? The families are wondering as family contact and connection is one of the most important aspects of an incarcerated individuals' reduction in recidivism rates and also reduces the number of infractions one is charged with while incarcerated. Are we going to get Jpay contact with our LOs who are in the tents? Thank you!

Answer

They are working on the WIFI access for the tent area today. They do allow individuals to move to areas of the facility that they can get WIFI so they can get the messages. In addition, JPay has stopped the syncing termination on the players.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Can you just clarify, normally after 30 days the JPay stops working, so you are saying that has stopped?

Answer

Yes. They have suspended that for Coyote Ridge until we have gotten through this.

Question 2

My LO says that there have been three different times when there have been “muster”. What and why are these?

Answer

We have staff muster meetings. These take place once a month on all three shifts. This is an opportunity for staff to come together to discuss safety and security issues.

Question 3

Mr. Taylor, last week Mr. Jennings said that he wasn't familiar with the policies and that Headquarters were making the decisions. Are you familiar with those? Mr. Jennings said that Headquarters had made the decision to not test the Medium units twice for a double negative.

Answer

From my understanding, it has to do with percentages. The percentage of people that had positive tests wasn't enough to require a double negative within those units. The individuals that were part of the Cohort were tested twice for a double negative. Only the individuals that had close contact. There was no reason to test others because they didn't have close contact.

Question 4

Can you recap about the tents? Do we have people moving tomorrow?

Answer

Yes. They have completed their convalescing time, and when that happens they will be moved out of the tent. We try to move them back to their old unit however, that may not always be a possibility.

Question 5

Can you explain how the property is moving from the tent to unit?

Answer

We developed a process that we are starting today to move some of the guys out of the tent. It is like a clean room process. Their clothes are sent to laundry, they receive a shower, new state issue clothing, and the property they had with them is being sanitized.

Question 6

What about the property that was stored?

Answer

The doctors have expressed no concerns for that property as they have been stored for at least 21 days.

Question 7

The whole time that they were in the tent, were they wearing masks?

Answer

Yes. The tents have been used for many purposes. The PPE protocol for those staying in the tents is the same as those in the units.

Question 8

Mr. Herzog was on a call. Is there any way that we can get him on one of these calls?

Answer

According to Paige Perkinson, Mr. Herzog is attempting to get on one Local Family Council call in the near future.

Question 9

How much longer is MI3 going to be on a 30 minute time out?

Answer

At this time I don't have a response. We are working with medical doctors to make sure that we are doing so safely. It will be a slow, progressive move. This is a top priority for us.

Question 10

Some of them are going 30-35 hours without getting out. That is a long time to be stuck in a cell.

Answer

We have to make sure that we do this safely and slowly. We don't want to undo all the work that we have done. We want to make sure that the virus is eradicated before we start opening those units again.

Question 11

Can you tell us the information that you have in regards to transfers to camp?

Answer

We are not aware of a plan to transfer individuals out of CRCC-MSD to camp at this time. We cannot answer that question as we do not have the information at this time.

Question 12

What guidance have you gotten from Headquarters in regards to transfers to camp? You must understand that we are getting frustrated as to the answers we are receiving.

Answer

We aren't transferring anyone to camp from CRCC-MSD during the current situation. The information should be in the statewide notes. Mr. Kinne is part of the Incident Response and has been related to the housing and testing of offenders. He hasn't been a part of any discussions regarding custody promotions and transfers.

Question 13

Why are their counselors telling them to check in with them as they may be transferred?

Answer

I cannot respond to what the counselors may be telling them.

Question 14

I am being told that MI3 is being required to test for a fourth negative?

Answer

No. I haven't received any information about retesting MI3 as a whole.

Question 15

Going back to the moldy food, you said for them to report that immediately, but what about the fruit?

Answer

It is never okay for them to receive moldy food. At the time, they should immediately report that to the custody staff in the unit, so that we can replace that meal. If they receive something that is inedible, we will make sure that they receive proper food.

Question 16

What qualifies for an individual to move from a tent and back to their living unit?

Answer

They have to do 21 days from the time that they test positive if they are asymptomatic. That is the required convalescing time.

Question 17

What qualifies them to go back to their original cell after they are done with their time?

Answer

The first thing we look at is if their original bed is available. If available, we would be looking at the cohort that they would be returning to. We don't want to put them with a group that is currently on quarantine. That is what may cause them to be in a different bed or unit.

Question 18

So we are going to mix them back up?

Answer

Yes. All of these individuals have done the convalescing time required, so they are no longer contagious. Now that they are not sick, we can put them back in their housing units.

Question 19

Will those that are negative get more time out then just the 30 minutes? Or is that just all of MI3?

Answer

In just this last round of tests, we have 12 that came back inconclusive, which means that those cohorts are now on quarantine. That is 12 cohorts that are on quarantine, which means that they can't be mixing until their quarantine time is over. We wouldn't be able to extend that time without mixing cohorts and potentially continuing to spread the virus.

Question 20

Do you think that Monroe is climbing because you are moving people to Monroe from CRCC?

Answer

No. There wouldn't have been any contact with where those individuals were housed and where the new positive cases from Monroe are coming from.

Question 21

But the officers that work there, would they have had contact?

Answer

We can't comment on the operations and staff at Monroe Correctional Complex.

Question 22

The folks in the tents, they are receiving much more time than 30 minutes out. Is that something that can be addressed? They aren't requiring those that are outside to wear their masks. It is very concerning that you close the M13 fresh air pads, but those out in the tents get to walk around the yard.

Answer

Masks have never been required in the yard. The reason for that is because they can be socially distant in the yard.

Question 23

Every time the alternative housing unit is out without their masks, the fresh air pads are being closed.

Answer

I don't believe that is the reason that those fresh air pads are being closed. However, I will look into it. We do close the fresh air pads for security reasons if we have vehicles or other things going on within the facility.

Question 24

If it was for a vehicle, why would the alternative housing be out? Can you imagine being stuck in a cell and just seeing other people outside and not required to wear a mask? Has CRCC done anything to address the mental health of these individuals?

Answer

I understand. This is the last thing that we want to do. We are almost at the point where we can discuss opening things back up, but we don't want to rush. We don't want to let this flare up again. Please know that everything we are doing is so that we can open things back up and keep everyone healthy and safe.

Question 25

If masking, social distancing, isolation, etc. hasn't done anything in the last 45 days, where does this end?

Answer

What we are doing is working. Unfortunately it is taking a toll on people, but it is working. We have never done this before, never lived through this before. It is a heavy lift on those that live here and work here. We are cautiously optimistic that we have crossed the line into better days in the near future. However, the push to open up doesn't do us any good, as a rush could cause another flare in this virus. That is not something any of us wants.

Question 26

When your staff are grouping together to have their meeting, there isn't a way to social distance, and that creates anxiety in the unit.

Answer

That is a valid point and we will address that. Thank you for bringing that to our attention.

Question 27

If a loved one took a picture on JPay and a staff member isn't wearing their mask, would you like to have a copy of that picture?

Answer

Yes, definitely. We expect our staff to follow the protocols.

Question 28

Are they supposed to be standing six feet apart as well?

Answer

It is six feet for longer than ten minutes. They are expected to social distance at any opportunity they can.

Question 29

I had a request for the notes, there were a few questions that were not worded the way they were asked, and the answers weren't answered the way they were stated. Can that be looked at?

Answer

We do the best we can. We will capture as much as we can and make sure that those are documented to the best of our ability.

Question 30

If there is an answer provided, can it also be noted who is answering the question?

Answer

That isn't any different then documenting who is asking the question. If that is something that you would like, I would like to know who is asking the questions as well.

Question 31

Mr. Uttecht are you aware of the article that says that leadership is to blame for not taking precautions?

Answer

I can't answer that question. This situation will be reviewed by many people in the future and I will answer those questions when they arise.

- Thank you for joining us. The next call will be Friday July 24, 2020 at 9:00am.