

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 8/20/20 @ 0900

Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**

- **DOC Staff:**

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Ken Jennings, Health Services Manager

Bill Copeland, Family Services

Ron Thompson, Captain

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant 3

Paige Perkinson, Engagement and Outreach

Jeff Kinne, Incident Command

- **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 8:00 am Wednesday. It is important that we received questions in advance to provide us time to research the answer. Not receiving questions may create a delay in a response.

- 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.

- **Please do not share COVID-19 informational call 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

COVID-19 Informational Call Notes will now go on the facility bulletin boards and facility Kiosks. We do ask that people now announce themselves so that information is available for the call notes.

Testing

Staff – CRCC continues to test all CRCC staff weekly. We have 76 staff members that have tested positive during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Incarcerated Individuals

Current population:

Positive: 233
In hospital: 0
Isolation: 0
Quarantine: 0
Recovered: 231

MI3 Operations – I, G, H, F Units

The minimum unit operations haven't changed much since our last operational period. MI3 unit operations has continued cohort size of 10 – 12 cells at a time and allowed for 2.5 hours of dayroom. Additionally one unit per day will be allowed outside walking for 60 minutes. The one major change is that MI3 units will now be reporting to the dining hall to pick up meals and report back to their units to eat in their cells.

This operational period will run until Friday 08/26/2020 and will be reevaluated at that time.

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

There has been no changes to the medium unit operations. All medium units are allowed out of their cells for 2.5 hours a day, on a rotational basis by cohorts which is 16 cells at a time. They are also given 60 minute outside time for walking every other day. They are also given option to go to yard for increased exercise. Mediums continue to be going to the dining rooms to pick up their meals.

Pre-Exposed Questions

There were no pre-exposed questions that was presented to me for this meeting.

Additional Questions

Question 1

What does the scheduling look like for the MI3 individuals that will be returning to work? What does that look like for dayroom and outside time, along with showers and meals, etc?

Answer:

As we move towards a new normal operations, we will be looking at these very closely. There are some scheduling challenges. If your loved one feels like they don't have time to shower after work, or something similar, I would encourage them to reach out to the staff in the unit to address that issue at that time.

Question 2

Is there yard time being added to the MI3 units?

Answer

Not at this time. They are being allowed to go to the dining hall to pick up their meals, but yard time has not been added. We have had to do some work to the yard after the temporary housing was up, and once that is completed we will look at getting them back to yard as soon as possible.

Question 3

Is the walking time an hour every day?

Answer

One unit per day. It would depend on what unit they are in. Each unit gets a specific day, based on rotation, as to when they go outside for walking time.

Question 4

How long will this schedule last? When will the new schedule come out?

Answer

This operational period lasts until the 26th. It will come out on next Thursday. We have actually modified the schedule so that we could get that information out.

Question 5

Has there been any consideration for those that are working in terms of missing their out time?

Answer

We have just started getting them back to work, so we still trying to work through this. It is going to be difficult for a little while. Anything between fully open or fully closed is going to cause difficulties. If there is an issue that arises, we will try to address them as they are brought to our attention.

Question 6

I heard that Medium and MI3 are being kept separate at work?

Answer

Yes, that is the current process.

Question 7

I wonder why you are classifying it as no new cases when you are averaging two new staff cases each week.

Answer

We aren't saying that there isn't COVID here. We are not saying that there isn't a risk. We are simply saying that there have been no new cases for those that live here.

Question 8

Being that they are only allowed to do the walking on a rotation basis, it has been brought to my attention that they aren't allowed to eat or drink in the dayroom, or drink water on the fresh air pad. Can you explain that?

Answer

The problem is the social distancing that is required. We expect our officer to stay in the pod when on shift, so it is not unreasonable to allow them to eat at their work stations. Individuals are not allowed to eat or drink in the dayroom for sanitation reasons; however, they are allowed to have water on the fresh air pads.

Question 9

My brother is in the E Unit, and they are broken up into the four cohorts- he has heard that they are going to start eating in the dining hall, is that correct?

Answer

Not at this time. We are having those discussions, but that hasn't been implemented yet. We will communicate it when that decision is made.

Question 10

Can you explain why men are being told to prepare for people to be served on Monday?

Answer

There is a lot of talk that happens between staff and individuals and not all of it is correct information. I can assure you that we are not starting to serve inside the dining hall on Monday.

Question 11

Can you address that with your staff then? That they don't give these guys the wrong information?

Answer

We will be sure to send that to the correct management personnel.

Question 12

Apparently when the guys go over to get their food, there are two cohorts, along with another cohorts in the dayroom. Is there a reason that we can't get them out during the day?

Answer

We are always looking at getting them out the most we can. The movement schedule is a significant challenge. We are trying to increase the amount of time that they can get out, including increasing staff in some places, so that we can run those operations.

Question 13

Every three days, they are locked down for 31 hours. Instead of going out first, and then going out last, why can't this schedule be adjusted?

Answer

Movement schedule is a beast. There are a lot of elements and pieces to it. We can relook and revisit that. We aren't opposed to discussing that.

Question 14

I am curious about the transfers coming in from Shelton. What is Coyote Ridge doing to ensure that those people are negative?

Answer

This is more of a statewide conversation. When people come into Shelton, they are put on a fourteen day quarantine. I believe that they are tested, but I am not certain. The system was designed for movement. I believe that Shelton is doing everything needed to ensure that these individuals are healthy. Also, individuals coming into the facility are screened just as anyone else entering the facility. There is a lot of concern around this, and understandably so.

Question 15

Shelton has mandatory quarantine for anyone coming in, so why doesn't Coyote Ridge?

Answer

The people that come in to Shelton, they are coming from the community. We receive individuals from Shelton and other facilities.

Question 16

What does the addition screening that you do entail?

Answer

When they arrive, they are asked the screening questions as well as receive a temperature check. If they have a high temperature or if they answer yes to any of the screening questions, they are put on isolation at that time and seen by a medical provider.

Question 17

So if an individual isn't feeling good, do you treat them as if they have COVID?

Answer

No, that is on a case by case basis. The aid comes first. The diagnosis is based off of the symptoms that individual is experiencing and is determined by a medical professional.

Question 18

Do you have any more information on if the incoming individuals and if they have been tested for COVID?

Answer

Shelton is an intake center. Their protocols are going to be different than ours, due to the fact that they are an intake center. We don't stay up to date on each facilities protocols.

Question 19

You are accepting incoming from Shelton, so are there any discussion on moving people to lower custody camps?

Answer

Movement is coordinated at the Headquarters level. There are priorities when it comes to transfers. We are sensitive to fact that there are a number of people that have been waiting for transfers. We are hoping that by accepting people from Shelton, it might help with overall movement throughout the facility.

Question 20

I hear that there is no contact visits being discussed as a possibility?

Answer

We haven't heard about that. We know that there is a group that is discussing what visitation may look like in the future, but I haven't seen those meeting notes.

Question 21

Who all is included or overseeing that group?

Answer

I don't know to be perfectly candid. Stephanie Beidman did mention that the Statewide Family Representatives are in that group.

- Thank you for joining us. Next week's call will be Thursday August 20th at 0900.