

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

**Date and Time:** 8/27/20 @ 0900

## Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**

Sandy Lewis

Stephanie Beidman

Cara Morgan

Gwen Macalby

Lisa Corbett

- **DOC Staff:**

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Tim Taylor, Health Services Manager

Jeff Kinne, Incident Command

Ron Thompson, Captain

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant 3

Paige Perkinson, Engagement and Outreach

Gheorghe Turcin, Family Services

- **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 8:00 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.
  - 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](mailto:DOCCOVID19@DOC.WA.GOV) for appropriate 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](mailto:catherine.jansen@doc.wa.gov) or [miduncan@doc1.wa.gov](mailto: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 77 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 have significantly changed since the last operational period. Dayroom activity will now be based on 20-24 cells at a time, with each tier having 2.5 hours of dayroom in the morning, and 2.5 hours of dayroom in the evening daily. MI3 Units will also have 50 minutes each day for yard. Meals will be distributed in the dining hall for individuals to take back to their units and eat in cell, with the exception of dinner. The dinner meal will be served in the dining hall. We have discontinued the one-hour of walking time outside.

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

There has been significant changes in the Medium unit operations. The Medium units will now have 50 minutes of recreational yard time a day. We have also discontinued the one-hour walking time outside for the Medium units. Meals will be distributed at the dining hall to individuals who will return to the unit to eat, except for the evening meal. Dinner meals will now be eaten in the dining hall. The dayroom rotation will now be based on 32 cells at a time, with each group having 2.5 hours of dayroom in the morning, and 2.5 hours in the evening each day.

This operational period went into effect today and will run until Friday 09/03/2020, at which point it will be reevaluated at that time.

## Pre-Exposed Questions

### Question 1

I would like to bring up a concern regarding the incarcerated population being denied access to the phones in their pods when they are on their out time.... From my understanding, DOC is turning off phones so they can create social distancing, which is understandable, but it sounds like there are partitions in between the phones as is. Also it would present great concerns for reporting PREA incidents if phones are turned off. Further, making complaints to the Ombuds office is greatly diminished. Additionally, it is reported that arguments are breaking out in some places because of the lack of access to phones.

Answer:

Coyote Ridge is disabling some of the phones to allow for social distancing. When we reopened the dayrooms it only allowed access to three phones per phone tree. Each tree has five phones. We decided to disable two phones per tree. If there was a phone that was inoperable, we would turn on a phone that had been disabled to keep three phones per tree running. The partitions that are on the phones are not adequate to allow close distance between individuals. We understand that these phones are used for a number of reasons, including PREA and Ombuds. We are not aware of any arguments in regards to phone access, but if anyone has any information regarding that, we will immediately look into the issue.

## Additional Questions

### Question 1

The wait time in the evening is causing frustration. I can personally attest to that.

Answer:

We will continue to monitor that and keep an eye on that. We do have more out time in this operation period, so hopefully that will alleviate the concern.

### Question 2

My husband says that they are limited to four phones where he is at in G Unit.

Answer

There is five phones per bank and two banks. There are three phones per bank available. Update: At one of the banks there is the KIOSK machine, therefore there are a total of 5 phones available in the living unit for use.

### Question 3

How many people to a tier?

Answer

There are 64 individuals to a tier, if that tier is full. We do have a low capacity right now.

### Question 4

What are the actual times out now?

Answer

It is going to rotate every day. We will send you a copy of the schedule that we going. It will rotate between the upper tiers and the lower tiers. Update: Schedule was sent to all the Local Family Council members via email.

### Question 5

Who is the best person to direct issues with the JPay kiosk?

Answer

If the individuals are experiencing issues with the JPay kiosk, there is a way for them to submit a repair request and let us know what those issues are. My office handles those requests and sends out a repair technician. Individuals should know how to make those requests.

### Question 6

You must be aware that the kiosk audio on the video visits is never good. You must be aware of that?

Answer

Yes we are. Unfortunately it is not our product.

### Question 7

You said that today they are eating dinner in the dining room, and we are doing it by unit. How is that working?

Answer

Units will come to dinner with their pod, and be called down by tier. That is a rotating schedule.

### Question 8

That makes sense. It would seem strange to me that to have the upper tier out for 2.5 hours and then the lower tier out for 2.5 hours, but then at dinner you send everyone down together.

Answer

I know that is confusing. Part of this is the need for social distancing in the dayroom, and the close quarters. When we are doing yard, they are outside and in the open. When we are doing mainline, it is a bigger space and we have limited the number of people to a table to two. This is for social distancing limitations.

### Question 9

What time does dinner start? If dayroom times starts at 5:30, then they are going to miss dayroom time to go to the dining room to eat?

Answer

The tiers will still be allowed out for their dayroom time. The schedule rotates so that it won't be the same tier every day. Dinner starts after our 4:00 PM count clears, which can take anywhere from 45 minutes to 1.5 hours.

### Question 10

I remember when some of the folks didn't have to wear masks during yard time. Is that still the case?

Answer

If they are out on the yard and being social distant, they can lower their masks.

### Question 11

I wanted to follow up from last week about not having water on the fresh air pads. Did you follow up on that?

Answer

They are allowed water on the outside pads. That was a change the week before last.

### Question 12

Is the time out in yard in addition to, or excluded from their dayroom time?

Answer

No. In order for us to move guys to the yard, it is possible that it could affect their dayroom time. We run out dayroom schedule and our yard schedule completely separate. There may be an instance where they have to choose to either stay in the dayroom or go to yard for their yard time.

### Question 13

It will also affect every unit, correct?

Answer

Yes. It is completely dependent on the rotation for the yard schedule and the dayroom schedule.

#### Question 14

So depending on the rotation there is a possibility that they will never get yard?

Answer

No. There is never a day that they won't be offered yard. They may have to choose whether they would like to go to yard or if they would like to stay in the dayroom. Even if it isn't their dayroom time, they still get to go to yard. However, there may be times when their yard time crosses over their dayroom time; which means they will have to decide to stay in the dayroom or go to the yard.

#### Question 15

For those that are working, they will miss yard time for that day, and possibly a chunk of their out time?

Answer

There is no way to make the schedule work for everyone all the time. The prison works well as an open campus, not so well in an in-between status. If someone has a job or programming, they might not get to go to yard. It has been that way even before COVID.

#### Question 16

Is there any news on opening the gym?

Answer

Not at this time.

#### Question 17

Can you tell us about the three guys going to Cedar Creek?

Answer

As we have said, we don't make decisions in regards to transfers.

#### Question 18

The counselors must know why they are going?

Answer

The counselors might know, but that is not information that we share. The counselor works with individuals on developing their Custody Facility Plan, which may include a recommendation for transfer. If approved at the local level for a transfer, CRCC will build the request for transfer. Headquarters reviews those requests and determine where that individual goes based on bed space availability and a number of other factors. We don't know unless we specifically go into the transfer orders to look them up if approved. The counselors might have some of that information because they are working with those individuals and checking it, but we don't make any of those decisions in regards to approvals for transfers or when they will transfer.

- Thank you for joining us. Next week's call will be Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 0900.