

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 12/3/2020 @ 0900

Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**

- **DOC Staff:**

Ken Jennings, Health Services Manager

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant

Ron Thompson, Captain

Paige Perkinson, Engagement and Outreach

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Michelle Duncan, Associate Superintendent

- **OMBUDS**

Caitlyn Robertson, OCO

- 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.
 - 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.

- 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

Testing

Staff – 120

Incarcerated Individuals:

CRCC – MSC: 234

CRCC – MSU: 79

In hospital: 0

Isolation: 41

Quarantine: 258

RCF - 2

In Intake Separation: 0

MSU Unit Operations

MSU units are on restricted movement and quarantined. They are cohorted by the tiers in which they live on and are allowed out of tier at a time to access telephones, Jpays, Ice and Kiosks on a rotational basis. The Gym has been opened as alternative housing and is currently housing 29 individuals.

MSC Unit Operations

There have been no changes to the operation of the MSC living units.

Safe Start

WA DOC remains in phase 1 of the safe start initiative.

Questions

Question 1

Why are the guards putting paddle locks on emergency exits down in the camps gym?

Answer:

CRCC custody staff created expanded housing in the MSU Gymnasium to house COVID positive incarcerated individuals. One incarcerated person left the building without permission which could have infected countless incarcerated persons. Generally, prison housing is locked, thus a directive was given to lock the GYM doors. Once we found what locking mechanisms were used to secure the doors, the superintendent directed that the lock hasps be removed with consideration for a different type of locking system. The use of locking mechanisms for expanded housing was appropriate given the circumstances. The lock hasps were on the doors for a very short period of time.

Question 2

Why are guards being demanded to come into work while on quarantine and being made to sign a waiver to be there? This is confirmed in H, F, and one on the breeze way.

Answer

In an effort to appropriately and safely staff the state's correctional facilities, the agency has updated the critical staffing protocols in June 2020 pertaining to facilities identified as having critical shortages in either correctional custody or health services positions.

What this means is that certain individuals, who may have been previously screened out of the facility due to self-reporting or being identified via the COVID-19 staff-mapping process as a close contact, may return to work with extra precautionary measures in place. Some things to note when this protocol is implemented:

- Only individuals with no symptoms, who have been screened out of the facility due to self-reporting or being mapped as a close contact, are considered for return to work. No individuals who have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or are presenting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, are considered.
- Once the list of eligible individuals has been created, a team (that includes an Occupational Health Nurse) then analyzes the list and evaluates the amount of reported close contact to assess possible individual risk associated with contracting COVID-19.
 - Many individuals are not able to return to work after the list has been analyzed for risk assessment and those who are not able to return to work then do not return to work until they've completed the COVID-19 return to work program.
- If an individual has been identified as a low-risk close contact, with no known failure to abide by COVID-19 protocols to include use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and is confirmed as not having symptoms, they are then asked to return to work wearing enhanced Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), to include a face shield, in addition to the already required surgical mask and other required PPE for their area of work.
- These individuals are also required to do symptom checks three times per shift, which are recorded with the screening team, to ensure that symptoms do not begin to present themselves. If ANY symptoms related to COVID-19 are recorded, the staff member is immediately sent home.
- Any individual asked to return to work, wearing appropriate PPE and participating in required symptom checks, is also required to continue to submit to the testing requirements in their facility, which means taking a COVID-19 test weekly as part of staff serial testing already occurring at the facility. If the individual returns a positive test, they are immediately sent home from the facility and the close-contact mapping process will begin.

The department has referenced the [Critical Infrastructure Response Planning](#) guide as published by the Center for Disease Control, and is confident in the measures being taken to ensure the health and safety of the incarcerated population as well as staff. This protocol is not a blanket protocol, and is not in effect permanently at any facility. This protocol is a resource with appropriate precautionary measures in place to ensure that during times of low staffing levels, the facilities can continue to run a safe, healthy and stable daily operation.

Question 3

Now that the OCO reported out, what changes have you done to their suggestions give the new outbreak?

Answer

We have responded to that in a very lengthy document.

Question 4

I have a question regarding individuals getting their insulin. I have the specifics but would you be able to comment on that?

Answer

If you are able to provide specifics, we would look into that. Getting medication to those that need it is very much a high priority for us.

Question 5

HA and HB Jpay Kiosks need to be looked at. Would that be possible?

Answer

We are aware of the outage of those phones and there is a technician scheduled to be onsite tomorrow to conduct those repairs. The population does have the ability to notify us when the phones are not working and we schedule for them to come in and make those repairs. Right now they are scheduled for tomorrow.

Question 6

There are a lot of families that have confirmation that Amazon has arrived three weeks ago and have not been delivered to their loved ones so we were curious on when the mail was going to be delivered as it has been a few weeks for a lot of the incarcerated.

Answer

We are working at processing the mail as quickly as we can. We do have people processing mail every day. If there is a delay, please reach out and we will look into the specifics of that particular issue. We have processed a great deal of mail and Jpay messages and working on looking at getting additional staff members available to review the Jpay messages. We did just go through a long weekend of Thanksgiving and we have no staff that work that holiday which would mean no mailroom staff on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Additionally it should be noted that mail is processed by priority, 1st class and legal mail and then move to 2nd class mail, publications etc.

Question 7

As far as physical mail, is it just incoming being delayed or outgoing also?

Answer

We don't believe that we are delaying the mail and the outgoing mail is still going out daily as we have always done.

Question 8

The kitchen workers, are they staying at the Camp or coming back to the main institution?

Answer

They do come back up to the main institution every day. Those workers come straight into the kitchen and have no interaction with any individuals at the camp. There is no concern regarding cross contamination.

Question 9

My loved one received their stimulus check, but they took 35% of the check. Isn't there a policy regarding that?

Answer:

We have been told that 35% would be taken from those stimulus checks. We can route any concerns regarding this through our Local Business Office to get some information.

Question 10

Have any of the stimulus checks been sent away?

Answer:

Our mailroom will do their diligence to find out who that check belongs to, if they can not identify the individual, then it goes to a second review at Headquarters.

Question 11

The staff that are coming back, are they just on the regular testing schedule or are they required to test before coming back?

Answer:

They are on the regular testing schedule. They will get tested whenever their regular testing day is.

Question 12

Was the stimulus money put into the spendable account? Is that why money was taken out?

Answer:

Linda: That was my understanding.

Question 13

Have you heard about the issue regarding Adobe Flash player and video visits?

Answer:

In communications with JPay, they are still working to correct that issue. If you experience that again, if you can email and let us know, we might be able to expedite that process.

Question 14

There was an email put out to explain the process, but the entire process is super glitchy.

Answer:

We are sorry about that. We wish that there was something more that we could do to help with this other than to contact Jpay.

Question 15

Is there no other company that could replay JPay?

Answer:

There have been some talks that have happened at Headquarters, but we couldn't comment on that as we are not a part of that process.

Question 16

Does Headquarters ask your opinion on any of that?

Answer:

There has been a committee for the last 18 months that has looked at that. There are some other vendors that we have had discussions with and hopefully we will hear something regarding that soon.

Question 17

I hear that there was a statement made that visitation won't resume until a vaccine came out. Can you confirm that?

Answer:

We cannot confirm that.

Question 18

Has there been any progress regarding religious activities or tier rep meetings?

Answer:

Tier rep meetings are happening. Religious activities discussions are happening. I will reach out to our Chaplains and try to find out some more information for you.

Question 19

Is the information regarding staff coming back going to be included in the meeting notes?

Answer:

Of course. That information has been provided.

Question 20

On the screening questions, is the question on the screening whether you have had close contact with anyone that has had close contact with someone with COVID?

Answer:

Yes, that question is in the screening process.

Question 21

At what point do you ask for additional help from other agencies?

Answer:

That is a hypothetical. We haven't gotten there yet.

Announcements:

*Local Family Council Meeting is tomorrow. The agenda will be sent out today.

*Our COVID-19 Response Calls will be transitioning back to weekly calls until our current outbreak is over.

- Thank you for joining us. Next week's call will be Thursday December 3, 2020 @0900.