

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 12/31/2020 @ 0900

Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**
- **DOC Staff:**

Caroline Melhuis, Family Services	Paige Perkinson, Engagement and Outreach
Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant	Ken Jennings, Health Services Manager
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@doc1.wa.gov or miduncan@doc1.wa.gov.

Weekly Update

Testing

Staff – 148

Incarcerated Individuals: 353

CRCC – MSC: 235

CRCC – MSU: 118

In hospital: 0

Isolation: 1

Quarantine: 51

MSU Unit Operations:

The alternative housing that was located in the GYM at MSU has been emptied and all individuals are back in their living units. Camas unit is now off of quarantine status and returned to normal operations to include eating in the dining room. Sage unit still has (2) two tiers that are on quarantine status pending the outcome of the current test results.

MSC Unit Operations

The living units at our MSC campus continue as previous. Since last week, C Unit A Pod has been released from quarantine.

Safe Start

WA DOC remains in Phase 1 of the Safe Start Initiative.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations have been received and are starting to be administered at Coyote Ridge. At the moment, only departmental staff working in Sage East Unit, individuals within Sage East, and medical personnel who work caring for COVID 19 patients have been offered the vaccination. The department must prioritize the doses as they are limited. As more doses of the vaccine become available, the Department will offer the vaccine to other individuals and staff as set forth in the Phased Prioritization Plan.

Recently a Frequently Asked Questions regarding Washington DOC COVID 19 Vaccinations was distributed to the population at CRCC as follows:

Is Washington State Department of Corrections developing a priority list for receiving vaccinations?

Yes. While the Department would prefer to vaccinate all employees and incarcerated individuals as soon as possible, vaccine doses will initially be very limited so the Department must prioritize doses to the highest risk individuals. The priority list is based on the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommendations for Phase 1A vaccine dosing prioritization. The recommendation is that workers in healthcare settings, who are most at risk for becoming infected, such as those working in units that care for people with COVID-19 as well as residents of long-term care facilities, be offered the first available doses of the vaccine.

According to Washington State Corrections' current Phase 1A prioritization plan, reviewed with the Washington State Department of Health, the following groups will be offered priority vaccines:

1. Departmental staff working in the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center (CRCC) Sage East unit, a long-term care living unit that houses geriatric incarcerated individuals with chronic medical needs and/or requiring assistance with activities and daily living;
2. Incarcerated individuals who are geriatric with chronic medical needs residing and/or requiring assistance with activities of daily living in CRCC Sage East, a long term care living unit in the facility that houses less than 40 individuals, or other long term care patients (approximately 20) with similar needs who cannot reside in Sage East;
3. Departmental staff working in medical in-patient units at multiple facilities and regional care facilities (RCF) caring for COVID-19 patients; and,
4. Departmental staff working in medical isolation units at multiple facilities comprised of COVID-19 patients.

All employees and incarcerated individuals not listed above will be offered a COVID-19 vaccination in the coming weeks and months as the Department receives more doses and further prioritization guidelines are issued by the CDC and Washington State DOH.

When will Washington DOC receive doses of the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Department of Corrections has begun receiving COVID-19 vaccine doses and, as of December 28, 2020, has begun vaccinating departmental employees and incarcerated individuals according to the Phase 1A prioritization plan.

How will you distribute the vaccines?

Vaccine doses will be sent directly to the facilities housing or employing the individuals and employees identified in the Phase 1A prioritization plan. Identification of receiving facilities based on updated prioritization will be done on a weekly basis. Each COVID-19 vaccine has its own handling and storage requirements requiring careful planning and coordination.

If you would like more information about vaccinations within the Department, please visit <https://doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/>

Questions

Question 1

JPay quality has decreased and there have been issues with the video visits on 011. Do you have any information on that?

Answer

Jpay technicians have been onsite. We will pass this information on.

Question 2

How many doses has the facility received of the vaccine?

Answer

We do not have the number of tests we have received to date. We are receiving vaccines on a regular basis. A list has been developed and High Risk patients have been prioritized. The priority list is based on the CDC's, DOH and other entities for phased recommendations for vaccine dosing prioritization. The list is fluid and can be adjusted as needed to ensure that those who are at a higher risk can receive the vaccine sooner.

Question 3

Has anyone experienced any reactions to the vaccine?

Answer

We have not heard of anyone having a reaction to the vaccine.

Question 4

Have you received the partitions for visitation and have they been put up yet?

Answer

No. We do have them, but they have not been installed yet.

Question 5

Is there a chance that Herzog could make rounds on the Family Council calls again, given that other facilities are now having more outbreaks?

Answer

Paige Perkinson had noted that she would make that request.

Question 6

How is the B Unit A Pod being cleared out? Is it for new individuals coming in?

Answer

There is a need for people to move through the Department. Some individuals that we receive will be housed in B unit A pod for transfer separation quarantine as precautionary measures. We may also get some from other facilities that have recovered from COVID. They may be housed throughout the facility as there is no concern with potential virus spread. We are screening these individuals very carefully.

Question 7

How many people are being moved from that Pod?

Answer:

I don't have an exact number currently. The pod holds 128 individuals however we do not have that many in that pod. I know this is more than 50. The CUS is watching these moves very closely.

Question 8

Is there a requirement for the employees to get vaccinated?

Answer

I know at the moment that it is voluntary. I haven't heard anything else regarding that so I wouldn't be able to comment further.

Question 9

Do individuals have to request the vaccine? Who would they contact?

Answer

I suspect this would be similar to how the flu shot is administered. Medical staff will likely go around to the unit and give the shot to those that would like to receive it. Additionally if incarcerated individuals would like to receive the COVID 19 vaccine, they are more than welcome to kite Medical staff.

- Thank you for joining us. Happy New Year! Next week's call will be Thursday January 7, 2020 @0900.