

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 7/16/20, 1:00 PM

Weekly Update

- **COVID and Isolation**

All of MCC MSU is on quarantine for a total of 232 on quarantine.

3A unit has 27 recovered individuals who will be returning to CRCC tomorrow.

The Maximum custody unit will be moving to WSRU in the old seg, which is Block 3, with 80 beds. This is to make room for the Covid-19 Positive patients.

- **Assistant Secretary, Prisons Division, Rob Herzog**

Mr. Herzog discussed the focus is management of COVID response. CRCC worked with CCO's for staffing as there were massive staff contacted out. There were beds in the gym, chapel and an A/C tent in the yard. We are using the lessons learned from both MCC and CRCC. We will be placing a "bubble" around MSU, meaning staff assigned to MSU will only work at MSU. We are using external resources with Public Health Agencies to be prepared for outbreaks, making sure everyone is using Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), teams deployed with protocol checklists, working long hard hours. Headquarters Incident Command develops a daily picture of response based on prisons.

As a cost saving measure, staff furloughs have been implemented. We are also aware of social unrest and injustice and how to manage facilities. For the most part there is no misconduct. We are sensitive to issues. Incarcerated individuals and staff are handling this well.

Pre-Submitted Questions

There were no pre-submitted questions this week.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Are all Incarcerated Individuals tested?

Answer

No. At this time we are testing the all Incarcerated Individuals at MSU and symptomatic individuals only.

Question 2

How are you keeping staff and Incarcerated Individuals from mixing together with those who have health risks?

Answer

We identify those who are vulnerable and try to keep them separate. We have no plan to put all at risk people together.

Question 3

When can we come visit?

Answer

I don't have an answer. The phase approach is on the website but there are no dates assigned. There is about 2-3 week lag for prisons behind the State. As we plan we are using caution and following protocol.

Question 4

Can we allow prisons without outbreaks to visit sooner?

Answer

All Counties are different. Visitors come from all over and different counties, so they may be from an area with an infection, be asymptomatic and introduce COVID.

Question 5

What about setting up outside visiting?

Answer

We can look at it and consider the option.

Question 6

Can the LFC be part of the visit committee?

Answer

Not that I am aware of. It seems like a good idea to have friends and family give their input.

Question 7

Can we get an update on COVID in relation staff working at MSU and testing?

Answer

MCC is one facility and overtime is from a pool of all the units. We are putting a bubble over the camp, meaning that staff who are assigned to the camp will only be permitted to work at the camp and won't be able to work at other units. Mass testing for all staff will start next week with serial testing after that. We are working on getting testing set up. Staff from CRCC and DOH will be here to help. We are not ready for mass testing of the entire population.

Question 8

Can we get an update on the movie Channel?

Answer

Swank Channel will download movies and play selected movies in a loop. We have a DVD player and our Electronic Technician is currently working on it and we can look at more selection and option once it is operational.

Question 9

The door on the units aren't working, can you give us an update?

Answer

We are working on a long term solution for the door issue. For short term when the doors aren't working the computers have to be rebooted.

Question 10

Bandanas use to be not allow but they are not authorized for face coverings?

Answer

Yes.

Question 11

How do you account for those who have been in contact with staff who have tested positive?

Answer

Contact mapping will be done. This is a way that a lot of staff are screened out and can't return to work until cleared.

Question 12

Is foam soap now available in the dispenser in the bathrooms?

Answer

I don't know, but the new soap that was distributed doesn't stink.

Question 13

How do they get their medication when they are on quarantine or lockdown?

Answer

It is delivered to their cell.

Question 14

The microwave went out on D unit at TRU, how long will it take to get fixed?

Answer

If it was reported to the unit staff it should be replaced right away, it shouldn't take long.

Question 15

MSU B unit is now on Quarantine, now what happens?

Answer

CPM Miller said they have to be negative for 2 consecutive tests. There are no plans for a 3rd test. They are quarantined until 2 negative tests after last exposure.

Question 16

Will MSU individuals be able to transfer to work release?

Answer

When MSU is on quarantine, they will not be able to transfer out until the quarantine is lifted.

Comments/Closing

SFC Felix D'Allesandro stated the Statewide Family Council is open to everyone and are meeting on Skype on Saturday. The Visiting Policy will be discussed.

Kaela Chong reported a Back to School flyer with information and application will be going out to the population. This event will be on August 8th in the parking lot for community Corrections. Approved adults will pick up the back to school items and must be wearing a face mask.

Thank you everyone. Stay Safe.