

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 8/6/20, 1:00 PM

Attendees

- Lynn Barker
- David Bullard
- Jody Bullard
- Felix D'Allesandro
- Caryl Darby
- Diane Durall
- Angela Hinton
- Josephine Johnson
- Christine Mathison
- Diane Pasta
- Carol Welch
- Ina McNeese
- Kathleen Bechler
- Kari Styles
- Karen Haydon
- John Padilla
- Mike Obenland
- Mark Miller
- Terry Cohn
- Matthias Gyde

Weekly Update

Isolation and Quarantine

We currently have 27 on the COVID unit for both isolation and Quarantine. Most of these are Violators. We have 1 from MSU and 1 from TRU on isolation. Currently there are none from CRCC.

The last 2 tiers at MSU have come off Quarantine. Headquarters has taken MSU off the "Bubble" status, meaning the camp is off restriction of having the staff at the camp working only at the camp. The staff who came and helped us from other facilities and CCO will be demobilized and heading back to their parent work location.

Segregation (Seg) inmates will be moved from the old Seg back to the IMU tomorrow. Block 3 (3A and old Seg.) will be solely for violators. Violators coming in will be kept on Quarantine for 14 days.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

On the COVID information WA DOC data page under Testing, Isolation & Quarantine, what does the new column individuals tested mean? How is this number compared to the total number of tests?

Answer

Individuals tested (3, 775) reflects the number different people have been tested. This is different than the Tests completed (3, 998) because some individuals have had more than one test.

Question 2

Is there any date for the weight decks to be reopened?

Answer

No, unfortunately. Refunds on paid programs occurred and no one should be charged when the program is not operational.

Question 3

It was brought up on the call July 23 about the conference notes not being posted in the units for our loved ones. As of this week they still have not been posted. They may be getting passed out to tier reps at meetings but they are not posted so everyone can see them. How can we make this happen?

Answer

I have made the request to have them posted. We try to get them out as soon as possible. We are all very busy and doing the best that we can with constant changes and less staff partially due to telecommuting. Thank you for being patient.

Question 4

As of yesterday gloves are still not being changed between pat downs and pruno/cell searches.

Answer

Pruno searches are a cursory search for excess nuisance contraband and pruno. If officers touch anything in the cell they are encouraged to change gloves. Currently we are only doing suspicious pat searches, not routine pat searches. Officers should be changing their gloves often. In pat searches, they are touching outer garments only. **Additional information; Individuals leaving Correctional Industries and Maintenance are pat searched before returning to the living units. While staff are not required to change gloves between each search, Individuals may ask the officer to change gloves if they choose.**

Question 5

Can you explain the difference between a pruno and cell search? From our understanding, a pruno search is done by smell and not going through things, as a cell search does.

Answer

Pruno checks are not done by smell only as there are times when you can't smell Pruno as they work to mask the smell. Throughout the complex there was 45 gallons of pruno discovered. Since it is a home brew of yeast and fruit, it can be dangerous to drink, causing illness and even death if enough is consumed. When we are looking for it, we are looking for containers. If anything is removed from a cell, a search form is to be completed.

Question 6

I had another family member tell me that Monroe will no longer allow beads for beading, My husband told me that as of September 1st, they won't be able to purchase beads through the religious program. Meaning he won't be able to send me the form and I won't be able to order the beads for him, he will have to order them himself off his commissary. Can you please verify which is the truth? If they are only able to order beads themselves, can you please explain why the change?

Answer

Beads will continue to be available through the recreation program. DOC 560.200 Attachment 1 effective 09/01/2020 eliminated the purchase of beads through the religious program. Families can still put money on their loved ones books so the incarcerated individual can order beads. Beads purchases must be made by the

inmate only. Family members can't order for them. **Update; family may also order for the individual from an approved vendor.**

Question 7

In addition to these questions the Video Kiosk 021 at 4 weeks is still out of commission. Can you all put some pressure on JPAY to get this fixed?

Answer

If you have problems with the Kiosk, keep reporting the issue directly to JPay.

Question 8

What is happening with the plans for the concert? And can the people who are planning in this event relay the information to REC Specialist 3 Gerrard?

Answer

There has been discussion about having some sort of concert, however this has not been solidified due to staffing shortages and our COVID response. Also, access to practicing in the Music room has not been approved. I have no further updates.

Question 9

The legal mail procedure appears to be not consistent among various COs 3rd tier vs cell front. Also does this need to occur at the late times like last night at 9:45 pm.

Answer

Our goal is to deliver legal mail in a safe manner. At WSRU legal mail is distributed by the unit Sergeant and at TRU the legal mail is done through the Sergeant's office.

Question 10

I was curious and a bit confused about transfers. I thought they were stopping transfers but I'm hearing that guys are still being transferred from Monroe to King County for court dates on charges from 2+ years ago. Is this true? How are they protecting everyone since King Co. is a hotspot right now?

Answer

We are still required by law to send individuals to various jurisdictions when ordered by the courts. We are also reopening individual transfers to work release and some have been moved to alleviate overcrowding at WCC. Routine custody promotion transfers are not occurring, but the classification reviews continue to be done so that once we are able to accommodate routine transfers they will be ready to promote.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Do we still have individuals in the trailers.

Answer

Yes, we currently house 7 high risk individuals in the EFV trailers. **Correction; there are 9 individuals from MSU in the EFV trailers.**

Question 2

Can you please tell us what is going on with the microwave at TRU D Unit?

Answer

CUS Flick was on vacation. Captain McNeese arranged to have a Microwave delivered to TRU D Unit on Tuesday, but there was a mix up and they delivered it to WSRU D unit. A Microwave was ordered for TRU D unit. Currently they have one on the unit, but have to share. This will be resolved soon.

Question 3

Will Pruno checks continue?

Answer

Yes. Pruno is a consequence of COVID in the fact that we are not conducting routine searches. With less for individuals to do, they get creative. We are working to get this situation under control.

Question 4

I heard there is an ice cream fund raiser scheduled for WSRU. Are there any plans to have an ice cream fund raiser at TRU?

Answer

Currently TRU is looking for someone to volunteer to help with fundraisers. If they find someone who is able to do it, CPM Styles would be able to share the information with them.

Comments/Closing

The LFC COVID Teleconference was changed to Thursday due to staff furloughs. We can survey to find out which day will work best for everyone.

The Bi-Monthly Skype meeting for Family Council is on Thursday August 13th. Please send agenda items to Kathleen Bechler by Monday.

Thank you everyone. Have a safe and happy weekend.