

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Details

**Facility:** Monroe Correctional Complex

**Date and Time:** 01/08/2021, 1:00 PM

## Attendees

Michele Aceto  
Lynn Barker  
Rosie Bittner  
David Bullard  
Jody Bullard  
Karen Cain  
Byron Coates  
Suzanne Cook  
Felix D'allesandro  
Caryl Darby  
Shealyn Downey-Hester  
Diane Durall  
Angela Hinton  
Josephine Johnson  
Diana Knesek  
Stephanie Meadows  
Devorah Mendoza  
Chelsea Moore  
Diane Pasta  
Rob Tarver  
Joanne Todd  
Carol Welch  
Lori Wheeler  
Jessica Wood  
Ina McNeese  
Kathleen Bechler  
Bill Frantz  
Karen Haydon  
Mark Miller  
Kari Styles  
Kaela Chong  
George Turcin  
Jack Warner  
Paige Perkinson  
Domenica Campbell

## Weekly Update

So far we have done 21,109 tests on staff and contractors. During the period of 12/25 thru 12/31 we have had 3 staff test positive.

### Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC)

- Number of new cases in last 30 days: 140
- Number of confirmed cases to date: 209

MCC WSRU C and D units remain on Quarantine.

Today, we will open the WSRU Gym. COVID-19 positive, asymptomatic individuals will move in there from the IMU COVID Unit. We anticipate moving 42 Individuals today. We have installed shower and toilet trailers, televisions, microwaves, cots. Individuals will be allowed two boxes of property and store.

Also today, in the Twin Rivers Unit Recreation Yard, a Rapid Deployment Care Facility alternate housing area consists of four (4) tents total. One tent houses four (4) showers, and four (4) toilets and three (3) sinks. The other three (3) tents each have 10 hospital beds. The tents have a dedicated PPE donning and doffing area, staff office, and a hallway connecting all tents. Additionally, each tent has a UVC/HEPA filter system for air clean exchange. This facility is capable of housing 30 positive COVID-19, symptomatic patients.

A lot of question regarding our request to use IIBF funds to replace/enhance our current television cable system.

I can answer some of those now, briefly and ask that you be prepared to vote.

To be clear, we are not “upgrading” our cable service, we are only upgrading existing (old) amplifying and switching equipment. Our service is analog and will remain analog with just the one digital “movie channel”. No other digital, no HD, etc.

Questions broken out and answers from Maintenance in red:

1. current amount in the fund? Approximately \$22k in local IIBF funds but these emergent funds come from HQ... not local funds. I'm not sure how much HQ has in their accounts.
2. does this impact the current tvs. No
3. Will inmates need to replace their personal equipment? No
4. How many men have personal tv's and how many do not? Unknown, not tracked by Maintenance; not tracked by Business either.
5. How much would it cost to equalize and make sure all had personal tvs? No idea how many people currently have TV's or need TV's
6. Is this just a quality update or will it expand content? Quality upgrade  
E.g., educational programming?
7. Will expansion create fees for access? None
8. What do you and other staff recommend? Cable TV reception is #1 complaint. Upgrade equipment
9. Who came up with the proposal? Maintenance based on age, capability, condition of existing equipment

The linen issue on WSR C and D units has been resolved by CPM Ferrell.

### Question 1

Facing unending quarantines with each new positive test, can cohort groups be made larger to facilitate more movements since they've tested negative or have returned from isolation?

### Answer

Once established, it is not recommended by Clinical Health Services to revise cohort numbers.

### Question 2

Do signs of any symptoms such as common cold, require a person to be isolated?

### Answer

When an individual reports symptoms, they are evaluated by a medical Provider for determination of placement.

### Question 3

How often are surgical masks exchanged for quarantine units?

### Answer

Individuals can request a new mask if theirs becomes soiled

### Question 4

Staff were conducting finger tests for oxygen saturation, the machine was not being cleaned between each use.

### Answer

Clinical Leadership was advised of this concern and are following up with their nurses.

### Question 5

How long is COVID Isolation?

### Answer

Patients with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 will remain in medical isolation until they have been asymptomatic for 14 days OR until they have been in medical isolation for 20 days from onset of symptoms as long as their symptoms are improving and they have been afebrile (without fever reducing medication) for 72 hours with the following exceptions: a) Patients with confirmed COVID-19 who are significantly immunocompromised may continue to shed contagious virus after the medical isolation period is complete. To prevent potential spread of COVID-19 disease from these patients additional time in medical isolation may be required. i)

Any patient with significant immunocompromised by diagnosis or medication as determined by a medical practitioner will be discussed with the COVID medical group by the practitioner calling the COVID Medical Duty Officer phone prior to release from medical isolation in order to determine a strategy to ensure safe release from medical isolation.

### Question 6

Can they receive letters & pictures while in isolation & quarantine in the COVID units?

### Answer

Yes

### Question 7

Do they have to have 2 negative tests before coming out of isolation?

### Answer

If initially symptomatic yes. Once they are positive, we do not retest.

### Question 8

What happens to all their stuff in their cells when they are moved to quarantine/isolation?

### Answer

Depends, for those originally housed on C/D units at WSR and were housed alone, their property has remained in their assigned cell. In a perfect world, their property would be packed and sent to the property room for storage.

### Question 9

I heard they were able to write out a list of items they would like from their house, have they been able to get those items?

### Answer

This is true. When the large number of COVID positive tests began returning, some individuals were moved without their authorized property. After this happened the Unit CUS and Sergeants corrected the failure.

### Question 10

I've heard there are only about 60 guys left in unit C, and that some positives are being kept in their cell. If this is true, can they all just go back to their cells and isolate there without video visits & still only the 3 calls a week. Then families would at least be able to hear from loved one with them having wifi.

## Answer

There are no known COVID positive, or known symptomatic individuals remaining on C and D units.

## Question 11

Pill Line is occurring at 11:30 PM for the past couple of nights

## Answer

True. According to clinical leadership this is not contraindicated. Health Services is short staffed and doing the best they can.

## Question 12

Bio Checks are being done at 11 PM - DOC staff is waking everyone and asking if they want a BIO check at 11 PM Who wants to get out of bed at 11PM to do a Bio check and why is this DOC staff waking everybody up and why at 11PM?

## Answer

According to medical, 11 o'clock is not too late. If he was in a hospital setting, he would be woken up every two hours for nursing check.

## Question 13

Showers for most everyone occurred yesterday - even though staff had to look at length for shower shoes.

## Answer

Shower procedures for isolation changed rapidly from the seventh day on isolation to as soon as possible with no clear guidelines. We placed them on the same schedule with MAX Custody Individuals to make it uniform and simplify the process. Basically, every other day.

## Question 14

MH Presence needs to be increased!

## Answer

There is a Mental Health plan in place. There are two designated Psych Associate assigned to IMU that do rounds at least once a day and respond to request or emergencies as necessary.

## Additional Questions

### Question 1

Will those who are on Isolation and Quarantine on C/D units at WSR be compensated for not being able to work for CI?

### Answer

I don't know but I will look into it.

Update: Correctional Industries is not compensating individuals during quarantine or isolation.

### Question 2

Can we talk about the analogue system for TV's, Marriages and Mailroom issues at the Family Council meeting next Saturday?

### Answer

Yes, I will put them on the agenda for our bi-monthly LFC meeting.

### Question 3

At the IMU, there is IMU COVID unit as well as a segregation unit. Is there a possibility of exposure to COVID at the IMU?

### Answer

No, there is not cross contamination from the COVID unit and the Max Custody Unit.

### Question 4

Can you tell me what is going on with moving the incarcerated individuals?

### Answer

TRU is moving Violators to Block 3 at WSR. Block 3 will be intake separation and Violators which is like a quarantine unit. 3A is violator unit. Tents will be set up in the TRU Big Yard, The healthy population will need to have an area for recreation without infecting the population. TRU will have their Gym and WSRU will have their Big Yard. While the Gym is a COVID unit, there will be no access to the gym.

### Question 5

There doesn't seem to be a plug in for hot water for COVID patients to get hot water as hot water is better to drink than cold water.

### Answer

I am taking notes and will talk to medical staff about your concerns.

### Question 6

COVID infected clothes need to be cleaned in hot water. Is the laundry able to get laundry clean and sterile?

### Answer

Laundry is put in mesh bags and taken to the laundry to be washed in hot water in industrial machines.

### Question 7

The heat on C unit is not working. What is happening to resolve this issue?

### Answer

Staff are taking the room temperature regularly of the unit. New parts have been placed on order. Extra blankets have been distributed on the unit.

### Question 8

When there are updates for the population, they are sent out on kiosk. Those who on isolation do not have access to their kiosk and they should be providing paper copies.

### Answer

Paper copies of the notices are handed out on the isolation unit.

Due to the numbers of requisitions for testing, Health Services has fallen behind in passing out paper copies of test results.

### Question 9

Thanks for keeping our loved ones safe. A few months of depression and boredom is much better than loss of life.

### Question 10

Once Asymptomatic COVID Positive on isolation have recovered after 14 days, what happens to them?

### Answer

We are working to find a clean area for the recovered to be house. Incident Command is working on it.

### Question 11

The Authorization for disclosure of Health information DOC 13-035 should readily be available so individuals can give their loved ones access to the information and staff don't have time to track down forms.

## Answer

Thank you for the suggestion, this is something we can look into.

## Comments/Closing

Community Partnership coordinator Kaela Chong talked about “Dream Big” program for children information.

Family Services George Turcin is available for families. He can be reached by email:  
gturcin@DOC1.WA.GOV

Thanks for your continued support and patience. Have a safe week during these difficult times.