

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 12/3/2021, 2pm – 3pm

Attendees

Joanne Todd	Superintendent Jack Warner
David Bullard	Associate Superintendent John Padilla
Jody Bullard	Associate Superintendent Michele Wood
Caryl Darby	CPM Kari Styles
Kim Day	CPM Terry Cohn
Vanessa Dovenio	Health Services Mgr. Rachael Symon
Dianne Durall	Health Services Mgr. Lisa Anderson
Melody Grandaw	PIO Kristi Webb, AA4
Stephanie Meadows	Captain Bill Frantz
Ron O'Neil	Captain Dan Allen
Ryan Swanek	Captain Ina McNeese
	Kathleen Bechler, AA3

Informational Call Update

MCC TRU is on Outbreak Status. There have been 78 incarcerated individuals who have tested positive for COVID in the last 30 days. MCC has had a total of 645 COVID Positive Incarcerated individuals to date.

MCC has had a total of 237 confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic. This is an increase of 7 since our last meeting.

Synopsis:

On 11/18, there was a COVID positive staff member on TRU A Unit along with one incarcerated individual positive test result. The next day, we tested all of the incarcerated on TRU A Unit and put them on quarantine. With mapping and contact information available, we put B Unit on Quarantine as well. When we got the COVID PCR results from A and B units, we received more positive results. This caused us to PCR test C and D units, and place them on quarantine. When we received the results, we had a facility wide outbreak per Headquarters Health services standards which caused us to halt operations.

All Incarcerated were tested and we have been conducting regular health checks. With everyone on quarantine or isolation, we had to outsource the work force. We moved Food Service entirely over to WSRU, and began bringing incarcerated individuals from the MSU into the back entrance of TRU to assist with laundry and commissary.

Medical has been conducting temperature checks and pill lines. We have been keeping everyone in their cohorts. There are 12 cohorts in total to keep everyone safe by keeping the cohorts separated.

When there are no new positives in 14 days, the units will be able to come off quarantine.

The situation throws everything off causing unintended consequences. Maintenance is working overtime and are currently getting barriers installed so video visiting can safely take place. Staff are working to take care of issues as they arise.

Question 1

We are told that air handling filters are not being changed regularly. What is the recommended change frequency and has this frequency been accelerated given the outbreak? Is even changing these filters more frequently recommended by medical staff?

Answer

Each unit has its own air handling system.

Consolidated Facilities Manager Regan Landis gave the follow statistics on the Air filter systems at MCC.

Commercial HVAC equipment differs from home furnaces. Commercial filters are more efficient (higher value).

All air supplied to MCC living units is filtered.

- Filters are rated by MERV (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values)
- Home filters are typically 1 inch thick and are rated MERV 5 to 7
- MCC's filters are 2 to 4 inches thick and are rated MERV 8 or higher

MCC is currently changing filters every three to four months (all units).

Commercial filter changes are based on more than how long filters have been in place. As filters "load" (trap dust)

- They become more efficient (trap smaller particles)
 - As long as the filter remains intact it traps smaller and smaller particles
 - Capturing smaller particles means cleaner air
- As filters load they increasingly restrict airflow in the duct – increasing pressure
- As pressure in the system increases - energy use (fan motor) goes up

Notes:

- ASHRAE Standard 62-2003, "*Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*"
- Commercial filters are typically higher MERV and are changed based on system fan ratings, airflow, pressure loss, and energy use.

Question 2

With our loved ones being sent to WSRU C Unit, how does the openness of the cells affect them?

Answer

Those that are COVID Positive and are asymptomatic are isolating at WSRU C unit. There is a separate entrance away from others and separate air handling system. This is an isolation unit with full COVID

related PPE a requirement. General population individuals assigned to WSRU A unit have no contact with those housed on C Unit.

- Note; during the meeting Captain McNeese was under the impression that those housed on C Unit would have access to the Dayroom in the C/D corridor. That is not the case based on clinical guidelines.

Question 2

What about the laundry? I hear there are no clean clothes.

Answer

Correctional Industries (CI) is soliciting workers to get laundry done. CI was able to get staff from different areas to work on getting laundry done.

Question 3

How is the garbage being handled?

Answer

The garbage on the units is being taken out by staff since the regular porters are not able to do it.

Question 4

What are you doing to keep everyone busy?

Answer

We are working on activities. There are board games, cards and hand held electronic games.

Question 5

What is happening with the cable? Some channels are clear and others are fuzzy.

Answer

The issues with the cable are still being worked on but it is much better.

Question 6

Can you give us an update on video visits?

Answer

The glitches in the video visiting system have been worked out. Barriers are being installed and video visits will be able to occur.

Question 7

How are you handling the medical needs for our loved ones including diabetic patients?

Answer

We are working on improving the diabetic process with limited resources.

Health Services are assessing needs, taking temperatures and giving medication while meals are delivered.

All Non-emergency medical appointments outside the facility have been cancelled due to the outbreak and will be rescheduled.

All emergency trips will go out as needed.

Medical staff follow the checklist provided by the Headquarters clinical team.

Question 8

Why does DOC house COVID free incarcerated individuals with one that has tested positive?

Answer

This will only happen when they have been in close contact with each other and the exposure was before confirmed COVID. We follow all COVID safety directives put out by headquarters Health Services. Some of the individuals want to be moved because there is a potential of being picked on by the population for bringing COVID to their unit.

We keep those on quarantine separate from those on isolation based on past history. The units all have different air systems.

Question 9

Is there double bunking with those on Quarantine or Isolation?

Answer

No there is no double bunking. We have a provider available for those on isolation and quarantine in case they become symptomatic.

Question 10

Will there be EFV's happening this month for TRU population?

Answer

There is a chance, but we don't know at this time. More information to come.

Question 11

Who is eligible for a booster shot?

Answer

Headquarters Incident Command Post is working on a plan. There will be more to come.

Question 12

How long is the quarantine period?

Answer

Quarantine is 14 days from the start of when the last positive test comes back. They have to be 14 days without a positive test for the whole unit to come off quarantine.

The heat went off last night at 2am on D unit. How long was the heat off?

Answer

No one reported an issue with the heat. Someone may have opened a window. It is a warm day today, but I will make note to go and check and ask if others experienced an issue with the heat and what can be done about it.

Question 14

I heard someone who was positive who was taken to the IMU with COVID. How do you keep them all separate?

Answer

The COVID positive unit is different than the disciplinary IMU. Each of the units has their own air handling system.

Comment

With all this going on, the population is getting more agitated and frustrated with the lack of information. They need more information on the testing results and want more communication.

We have altered the work week for the Correctional Unit Supervisors (CUS) at TRU so there will be a CUS on duty every day including weekends.

Question 15

Can the Immune suppressed get a 3rd shot?

Answer

Yes, they will get the shot if they request it.

Question 16

At the IMU do they have access to cable TV and can they charge their players?

Answer

No, but when they are no longer symptomatic, they can. We got a bunch of devices with games on them to keep them occupied.

Comments/Closing

Thank you everyone. We will talk to you at our regular LFC meeting on Saturday December 11th.