

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 1/22/2022, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

Joanne Todd

Josephine Johnson

David Bullard

Judy Bullard

Byron Coates

Carly Darby

Kim Day

Vanessa Doven

Melody Grandaw

Angela Hinton

Diana Knesek

Dana Malaha

Cati Moore

Ron O'Neil

Diane Pasta

Kehaulani Walker

Deborah Zoutendyk

Program Specialist Monica Ritter

Associate Superintendent Michele Wood

Associate Superintendent John Padilla

CPM Terry Cohn

Health Services Mgr. Elke Jackson

Local Business Manager Mariam Isaac

PIO Kristi Webb, AA4

CS Kaela Chong

Heather Trenk

CUS Leslie O'Conner

Captain Dan Allen

Captain Bill Frantz

Captain Ina McNeese

Kathleen Bechler, AA3

Informational Call Update

MCC TRU remains on Outbreak Status. There have been 294 incarcerated individuals who have tested positive for COVID in the last 30 days (105 last week on Friday). MCC has had a total of 1029 COVID positive incarcerated individuals to date.

MCC has had a total of 370 (326 last week) confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic.

Isolation and Quarantine Units

SOU

A, B, C, D and E Units are on quarantine.

½ of A Unit is now an isolation unit

WSRU

A Unit WSR is on quarantine – IK workers are being rapid antigen tested prior to work.

IMU COVID Unit

IMU Continues to house both COVID positive and Quarantine Individuals on separate Pods.

MSU

C and D units are on quarantine, B unit is housing COVID positive MSU individuals

TRU

A, B, C and D Units are on quarantine, and one Wing of C unit (B Wing) has been converted to isolation.

E Unit has been opened for COVID isolation.

Commissary Spending Limits

Among efforts from other regarding commissary spending limits, LTC Byron Coates worked with Danielle Armbruster asking for two things;

1. Standardize Commissary spending limits across all facilities so that when an inmate was transferred from one facility to another they would encounter a similar spending limit.
2. I wanted a commitment from DOC that as prices fluctuated spending limits would float with those fluctuations. In other words a COLA which would routinely be applied as appropriate when prices changed.

Result;

Thank you for passing along your concerns regarding the DOC commissary program and some suggested changes. At this time, in accordance with DOC Policy 200.210, Prison Commissary, departmental leadership made the decision to increase the spending limit at several institutions. This is being done in an effort to drive consistency between institutions. The sites being adjusted are; CBCC, CCCC, LCC, OCC, WCC and WCCW. The commissary team is constantly reviewing pricing and working to offer quality items at the lowest cost possible.

Employee Rapid Antigen Testing

On Saturday 1/15/22 MCC began 100% Rapid Antigen Testing for all staff reporting for work. This is a 24/7 Operation.

I received a couple of inquiries regarding use of "expired" tests. We are utilizing the BD Veritor™ System for Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2.

In November of 2021, BD received approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to extend the shelf life (expiration date) an additional 10 months.

Community Outreach

CS Kaela Chong gave an update on the Avery Project for 2022. 2021 was a very successful year and are hoping to reach even more children of incarcerated parents this year through our online support/leadership groups!

We know that there are over 2 million youth in the US who have been affected by parental incarceration and we can't find them without your help. If you know of any youth that could benefit from joining our groups this year, can you please refer them to us (Group Application/Referral Form) or ask them to apply? We are looking for new youth to join us in late February and April. We can't wait to meet these youth!

We also have a fun new video of our leaders inviting new youth into our program. Feel free to share with youth who might be interested: [Join Our Avary Family!](#)

PROJECT AVARY'S ONLINE SUPPORT & LEADERSHIP GROUPS FOR CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

JOIN NOW!

DO YOU HAVE A PARENT THAT IS IN PRISON?

2022 Dates:

- February
- April
- June
- August
- October

GROUPS ARE FUN & FREE TO JOIN!
***CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO**

Are you someone who...

- Has a parent who is or was incarcerated?
- Between the ages of 8-18?
- Willing & able to commit to attending all Zoom groups?
- Has internet and device access during scheduled group times?

PROJECT AVARY

ARE YOU INTERESTED OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE?
FILL OUT OUR ONLINE APPLICATION:
WWW.PROJECTAVARY.ORG/ONLINEPROGRAM

The Kid focus gift giving had cards sent out, but the project cost a lot in postage and we are looking for alternative ideas.

TRU was not able to do their Christmas project so it will be taking place in February.

Question 1

Why to some who are on Quarantine stay in place while others who are on Quantine are moved?

Answer

We have those who are on on Quarantine and due to the spread of the outbreak we are keeping them in place. Others are “Super Quarantine” which means they were in a 2 person cell and their cellie tested positive. Since the risk of them getting COVID is so great, we move them to reduce the risk to others on the unit that would or may not have had as close contact. All units are TRU are currently on Quarantine, with the exception of C unit which is an Isolation Unit. There is a lot of movement at TRU, from what the population has told me, they want to be left in place. Although the Omicron variant is milder, it can still be harmful and should not be considered “mild”.

Question 2

My loved one said he is not getting yard, laundry or soap. Why?

Answer

- Laundry carts are moving, but on Monday the CI building was closed so the laundry didn't go out that day.
- Yard – We are trying to get movement for phone, showers etc. We are working on a new schedule for yard movement by cohort which will be put into place soon.
- They are getting soap, but some were bartering and hoarding soap. They will get soap if they ask for it to make sure everyone gets some.

Question 3

We had a visit scheduled for the end of February but it was cancelled. Why are the visits cancelled so far out?

Answer

All visit are cancelled for January and February and those who had a visit canceled get priority when rescheduling.

Question 4

Thank you for getting new mattresses, it's much appreciated.

How often are those on isolation on E unit at TRU getting checked on by Medical?

Answer

E unit has a nurse available 24/7 and medical is checking on everyone 2 times per day. If they have a problem we can get help to them right away.

Question 5

What is the plan to get them some yard time out of their cells?

Answer

Captain Frantz has an approved plan for getting them time outside in an area close to E unit which will happen soon.

Question 6

2 tiers at MSU are positive for COVID and out of that 50 people were pulled. How does that effect your liability?

Answer

When Health Services gives us directions to separate those on quarantine and isolation, there is limited space and staffing. We work to find locations to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible, which creates work. We adhere to the medical advice given. If we do not follow medical's advice it makes us liable for the safety/risk presented. Not everyone is vaccinated so we can't leave those who test positive with those who test negative. We follow medical advice and protocols put in place to reduce the infection rate. When testing shows a positive case in a specific unit, the quarantine time starts over.

Question 7

With everyone so close together, how are you going to stop the spread in the camp?

Answer

By encouraging everyone is keeping their distance and wearing their masks, in addition to separating positive patients and close contacts.

Question 8

With the outbreak and no one able to work, are the workers getting compensated for lost pay?

Answer

We have the approval to provide pay for those displaced by COVID.

Question 9

What about programing during the outbreak, such are GED, Chemical Dependency etc.?

Answer

Education will continue remotely. For those classes like Chemical Dependency that require group meetings, classes have been postponed.

Question 10

Nursing homes have a 5 day quarantine after getting COVID and DOC has a 14 day quarantine. Are there plans to change the length of quarantine time?

Answer

I don't have an answer to that. We are following OFM and DOH. There may be more rules in place for prisons.

Comment

I appreciate the work MCC is doing in getting all staff rapid tested before they come in to work. I know it effects scheduling and effort to make sure the virus is not coming in with staff.

Question 11

I was told that someone who reported to go to work in the kitchen was turned away because he hadn't had COVID. Why?

Answer

The workers in the kitchen were taken out because of the number of positives and it had a real effect on the kitchen. Because of that, we are using COVID recovered individuals in the kitchen and the workers are rapid tested before they go to work in the kitchen to keep everyone safe.

Comment

Captain Frantz is third generation Corrections staff. Yesterday there was a man who released after 42 years of incarceration. He left the facility, elderly but in good health. 2 hours after he left, there was a whole stack of pizzas delivered to the facility to thank staff for keeping him healthy and happy. Unfortunately we could not accept it and it was sent off to the local food bank but it was a wonderful story to share with the group.

Comments/Closing

If you have specific questions, please email them to me in advance so I can get the answers for you. I am a little behind on publishing the notes, but I will carve out time to get them done.

Thank you everyone for your collaboration, kindness and support. Feel free to reach out to me if I can help. Be safe. Talk to you next week.