

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 1/14/2022, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

Joanne Todd – Co-Chair

Byron Coates

Dianne Durall

Diana Knesek

Dana Malaha

Stephanie Meadows

Cait Moore

Kehaulani Walker

Danielle White

Ron O’Neil

Diane Pasta

Ryan Swanek

Deborah Zoutendyk

Heather Hamilton, OCO

Program Director Jeremy Barclay

Superintendent Dan White

Superintendent Jack Warner

Associate Superintendent Michele Wood

Associate Superintendent John Padilla

CPM Terry Cohn

CPM Melida Ferrell

CPM Rick Geer

CI Manager Ron Klamert

Health Services Mgr. Lisa Anderson

Health Services Mgr. Rachel Symon

Local Business Manager Mariam Isaac

Captain Bill Frantz

Captain Ina McNeese

Kathleen Bechler, AA3

Informational Call Update

MCC TRU remains on Outbreak Status. There have been 105 incarcerated individuals who have tested positive for COVID in the last 30 days. MCC has had a total of 815 COVID positive incarcerated individuals to date.

MCC has had a total of 326 (284 last week) confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic.

Isolation and Quarantine Units

SOU

A, B C 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 E Unit

A, B and C Unit are on quarantine

This was a 20 bed unit that we used for COVID positive.

We are not opening new areas as we are having everyone quarantine in place. There is more to come.

Presubmitted Questions

Question 1

How long are Individuals who test positive for COVID kept on quarantine? Is it 14, 10, or 5 days?

Answer

They stay on quarantine for 14+1 day and after two negative COVID PCR tests. Of course, each time a person within their cohort tests positive, the quarantine starts over again from the date of the positive tests.

Question 2

Can they still go to yard and weight deck when staffing is available?

Answer

We have tried to make recreation available where we can.

Question 3

Will they be in one big cohort if they're negative? This would give them more access options.

Answer

TRU is cohorting by Wing, WSR A unit has been broken down into smaller cohorts. We haven't had to go to single person cohorts as we did with the last outbreak in November.

Questions

Question 1

Without access to the equipment, will Recreation fees remain in place?

Answer

There is a Team at Headquarters who are working on it. There will be more information when I receive it.

Question 2

Does DOC get Federal Funding for following protocol?

Answer

I don't know the answer to that. That information is not within my area of responsibility.

Question 3

Communication is important. Is it possible to update JPay to have easier access to communicate with our loved ones?

Answer

I will make a note of it and send the question to Headquarters to get an answer.

Comment

JPay has been doing the messaging well. I try to get more time for video visits, but this is a good way to keep in touch.

Comment

I would like to have Secretary Strange and Dr. Strick on the next teleconference.
Response: I can always ask and see if they are available.

Question 4

Are the people now getting sick, the ones who were sick with the Delta variant, or are these new people?

Answer

This is not information that is collected at the facility level. Some people have had it more than once.

Question 5

What is the rate of infection with Omicron Variant versus Delta variant?

Answer

The lab we work with doesn't look at the variant and this is not reported to us.

Question 6

How would I know if my loved one was sick? Where would I get that information?

Answer

If you are concerned because you have not heard from your loved one, you can email Captain McNeese and I will find out what the circumstances are and let you know. Remember, custody staff may not know the official test results, but we can verify location of housing.

Question 7

Where are we at with staff being tested daily before they start their shift.

Answer

Discussions are currently taking place about Staff testing. Note: As of January 15th a pilot project started with giving each staff coming on grounds getting tested for COVID before proceeding into the facility.

Question 8

I heard staff find out they are positive and work out the rest of their shift before going home. Also my loved one was recently positive and was tested again last week. I thought they were to wait 90 days before PCR testing again.

Answer

Once identified as either testing positive or failing the screening, employees are directed to leave the facility. We have been directed to conduct Rapid Antigen Tests in lieu of PCR tests if an incarcerated individual or employee has tested positive has had COVID within the last 90 days. Health Services continues to refine their processes for identifying whom requires which test.

Comment

We had a scheduled visit at WSR, then my loved one was moved to TRU and the visit was accommodated. Thanks for allowing us to visit after the move.

Response: We always try to make visits happen when we can.

Question 9

What are you doing for recreation?

Answer

We try to get everyone access to the yard, but weather is a factor due to fog, rain, etc. We always try not to disrupt yard time when possible.

Question 10

Is it possible to separate the vaccinated for the non-vaccinated to curb the spread?

Answer

We have found that both vaccinated and unvaccinated incarcerated and staff have tested positive. We continue to follow the guidance as provided by HQ Health Services.

Comment

At MSU when it is time for count, individuals line up in hallway with no spacing, which is a concern.

Question 11

Can you resume programming with COVID restrictions, particularly education? We need to get education put back into place. What is available in terms of education?

Answer

We are working on a plan for all units. Remote learning is taking place and when and where Education has the ability.

Question 12

Can we give them some kind of reward when they are in quarantine, like donuts or pizza?

Answer

I don't know if this can happen. We did pass out a holiday bag in 12/29/21 which included food, nuts etc. We are doing what we can.

Question 13

Will families be able to purchase cold medication through their medical? When I put money on the books for this, it costs a lot when a percent is taken.

Answer

I would reach out to your Statewide Family Council Representative Danielle White to bring it up at the Next SFC meeting as this is a Statewide issue.

Comment

Thank you, Captain McNeese for all the work that you do.

Comments/Closing

Thank you Everyone. We will talk to you next week.