

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 2/18/2022, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

Joanne Todd	Program Specialist Monica Ritter
Josephine Johnson	Program Specialist Page Perkinson
David Bullard	Heather Hamilton, OCO
Judy Bullard	Associate Superintendent John Padilla
Kim Day	CPM Terry Cohn
Diane Durall	CPM Rick Geer
Melody Grandaw	PIO Kristi Webb, AA4
Diana Knesek	Local Business Manager Mariam Isaac
Stephanie Meadows	CS Kaela Chong
Cait Moore	Heather Trenk
Ron O'Neil	CUS Leslie O'Conner
Diane Pasta	Captain Dan Allen
Jessica Rowland	Captain Bill Frantz
Ryan Swanek	Captain Ina McNeese
Kehaulani Walker	Kathleen Bechler, AA3
Danielle White	

Informational Call Update

MCC TRU remains on Outbreak Status. There have been 755 (895) incarcerated individuals who have tested positive for COVID in the last 30 days. MCC has had a total of 1685 COVID positive incarcerated individuals to date.

MCC has had a total of 439 (up from 413) confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic.

Isolation and Quarantine Units

SOU

A, C, D and E and F units are on quarantine.

½ of A Unit is now an isolation unit

WSRU

A unit is housing recovered patients who were originally housed on A unit

IMU COVID Unit

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

MSU

A, C and D units are on quarantine, B unit is housing COVID positive MSU individuals. When B unit became full, we had to transition new positive cases to WSR for isolation.

Recovered individuals are allowed additional privileges like weight deck, gymnasium, and the ability to work.

TRU

A, and D units are on Quarantine. B Unit Wings A and B are on isolation with B unit C Wing on quarantine. C Unit is an isolation.

Questions

Question 1

When will visiting open? Is there an update?

Answer

Some facilities are worse off than MCC. There may be an update from Headquarters coming out next week.

Question 2

Can we sign up for visiting now?

Answer

No, we have to wait until we know when visiting will take place before we are able to schedule. We did have a meeting with Headquarters regarding visiting. This meeting was statewide with all facilities to prepare for visiting. Visiting rooms have been used for other purposes including storage and housing during outbreaks. Our visiting rooms were not used for housing. Currently, vendors are being trained and badged to stock machines when visiting does open.

Question 3

Can you give us an update on when Education will begin again?

Answer

The Spring quarter will start April 4 provided we are able to resume. If facility operations improve sooner, we are also prepared to resume Basic Skills programming by cohort hill wide.

Question 4

Can you give us an update on money that our loved ones should receive?

Answer

JPay put \$15 on everyone's account for video calls and stamps and a \$10 general credit will be put on the books, which is expected in March.

Question 5

We are told that the cardboard boxes are being taken away. Is it possible for DOC to provide totes?

Answer

Some of the cardboard boxes were reused. We will have to look into alternatives to Cardboard boxes.

Question 6

Why do the COVID tests seem inconsistent?

Answer

We follow the protocols given by Headquarters medical. Some of the tests are PCR tests and some are rapid tests. This is based on when a person tests positive. There is a formula to the type of test used.

Question 7

Can you give us some information on the Incarcerated Individual who died at TRU?

Answer

When there is an unexpected death, there are protocols to follow. There is a checklist with the order of events that must take place including the response. The area is treated as a crime scene with law enforcement notification and the remains cannot be removed until released by the coroner. After the incident, Headquarters assigns a team from other facilities around the state to do a Critical Incident Review and report findings as to what happened and how the response was handled to Headquarters. I don't know if the incident is COVID related.

Question 8

With the meetings going public, there could be trolls on the calls. What is DOC doing to protect us during these meetings?

This directive was rescinded by HQ on February 22nd.

Answer

Headquarters wants the COVID information from these calls to go out to all MCC families, not just the LFC. Other facilities may not have made their meetings public yet. This is still in the works.

This directive was rescinded by HQ on February 22nd. Invitations will be limited to LFC members. If you know of someone who has a loved one at MCC, please have them contact Captain McNeese for inclusion.

Question 5

Is there are protocol or policy regarding open forum for these calls?

Answer

When we first started the COVID informational calls, we used to have a conference call line in which we asked not to share the number. There have been changes since then and this is a work in progress.

Comment

Volunteer John Burkholder hasn't been able to come in for some time, but he was able to walk around and say hello to our loved ones, which they really appreciated.

Response

Yes, John Burkholder is a contract employee. CPM Cohn has oversight of the Chaplains. Currently we don't have any regular chaplains and those who are able to fill in are really appreciated.

Update, Chaplain Sherman returned on February 22nd.

Question 6

We were told that WSR will be doing a fund raiser. When will TRU get theirs?

Answer

I don't know when, but I will try to find out.

Question 7

Are there any updates on from the Incident Command Post (ICP)?

Answer

Yes, the ICP is working on clearing areas, used to distance those on isolation and quarantine, and get people back to where they need to be.

Comments/Closing

CS Kaela Chong asked for input into non-person activities and got some feedback to pass on to other family members. We plan to have painting and other activities to do in the visiting rooms when visiting resumes.

Captain McNeece appreciates Senior Administrator Susan Leavell joining us on our Local Family Council Meeting to share information on the Graduated Reentry (GRE) program.

Thank you everyone. We will talk again next week.