

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 2/25/2022, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

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

Informational Call Update

There has been 1 (755 last report) incarcerated individuals who have tested positive for COVID in the last 30 days. MCC has had a total of 1690 COVID positive incarcerated individuals to date.

MCC has had a total of 443 (up from 439) confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic.

MCC was released from Facility Outbreak Status and is now in Limited Area Cluster Status.

MCC Visiting will reopen on March 4, 2022. Final approval for this start date came today and HQ is working on their end to get the Scheduling site updated. HQ has also agreed to pilot a program that will take over the Scheduling of Visits – this was previously managed by MCC staff. I imagine you will find the website active soon.

Visiting will continue to be separated by unit cohorts, Rapid Antigen and COVID Screening will continue for all visitors. HQ has authorized free photographs. These will occur at your assigned table, each person at the table will be provided a copy of the photograph and masks are still required.

Some of you may remember former LFC Co-Chair Paula Chandler. She will be returning to MCC as an Associate Superintendent. Appointing Authorities will be working out assignments and areas of responsibility and I will share that when available. If you see Paula, please welcome her back!

Isolation and Quarantine Units

SOU

E Quarantine

F 1 Isolation F2 Quarantine

IMU COVID Unit

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

Calls open to the public has been rescinded. Informational calls only go out to the LFC so please do not share the information with those who are not family members.

Pre-submitted Questions

Question 1

When will individuals start getting requested booster vaccines? Do they have to sign up to get a booster?

Answer

Booster clinics will start on February 28th

Update: A newly developing plan is just being formulated with HQ's today. We have Jogan Health (DOH contractor) will be providing vaccinations at MCC beginning next Monday-Thursday, 8am – 5pm. The first facility visited will be TRU. Our method with this contractor's assistance is to conduct vaccinations in the housing units, moving cell to cell providing education and information, so that each patient visit results in either a vaccination or a documented refusal/declination (using DOC's COVID patient consent form DOC 13-589/S). We recognize that this approach limits the speed of vaccinations. The positive result is that it limits the impact to facility operations and custody staffing that would otherwise be needed to support movements. RN Liz Roberts will work to create the schedule with TRU being the first site and SOU/IMU being the final location. HCM Rachel Symon will be the point of contact for any vaccination questions that may arise.

Question 2

I heard that expired medication being given is an issue.

Answer

I haven't heard about that, but I will share information when I have it.

Other Questions

Question 1

When can we start to sign up for visiting?

Answer

Check on the website to get the link to sign up. You will go to the same place to get a rapid test before visiting. The screening checkpoints are a little different. You will do screening in the same place you get your rapid test done.

Question 2

I live overseas. Is it possible to get a photo without the mask for our kids since we are not able to visit?

Answer

Our Recreation staff are authorized to take photographs outdoors, without a mask. This is not an option for those assigned to Restricted Housing.

Question 3

Will cancelled visits get priority to schedule visits?

Answer

That was the plan when MCC staff were doing the scheduling. Headquarters has taken on scheduling visits and I don't believe that option is available.

Comment

I was able to get a visit scheduled on March 4th. Note: WSRU has a smaller population, so it is easier to get a visit scheduled.

Question 4

How long will SOU be on Quarantine?

Answer

For now, only E and F units have COVID Isolation/Quarantine. We are hopeful they will come off this status later next week. The unit that your son is on is not on Quarantine.

Question 5

Will the vaccine they will be getting be Pfizer or Moderna? I am wondering if it will be the same vaccine for if it will be switched.

Answer

DOC offers Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

Question 6

When searches take place, items are taken and disappear, and they never get them back again.

Answer

When a search is conducted and items are taken, a search report is filled out with the disposition of property and why items were taken. If items were removed and not noted in the Search Report, the individual should report this immediately to the Unit Sergeant/CUS.

Question 7

I was told that our loved ones can't use the restroom during count and sometimes up to an hour after count. Why?

Answer

Individuals must stay on their bunks during count but are free to use the restroom once count clears. In the case of an emergency, they can let the officer know and they will be permitted to use the facilities. CPM Cohn reported it takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes to conduct and clear count, once the announcement is made, individuals are free to move to the restroom facilities.

Question 8

My loved one was moved many times during the outbreak and his property was moved many times. Now his diabetic shoes he has an HSR for are missing.

Answer

It is true property was moved many times and he may need to file a tort claim for the shoes. That is exactly what the tort claim system is there for. You can send an email to me, and I will follow up.

Question 5

When will EFV's be opening?

Answer

This will be reviewed in March.

Question 6

Is it possible for families of incarcerated to reach out to correspond with others who do not have family or people writing to them and how do we find out who is in need?

Answer

Yes, you can write to them, but there are rules as far of putting money on their books and how many visiting lists you are permitted to be on. To write to them on JPay the individual needs to send you an invitation for you to write to them. Kaela Chong will follow up to see what can be done.

Question 7

Now that fabric is not needed for masks, can we donate fabric and beads etc. to individuals to give them something to do?

Answer

We have volunteer programs you can donate to, like our Community Aid Coalition which makes quilts, and they were making bags for wheelchairs prior to the pandemic. Donations directly to the incarcerated population is not authorized.

Question 8

Now that visiting is starting, when will marriages begin to take place again.

Answer

We are only having virtual weddings currently. CPM Cohn contacted Chaplain Sherman and he stated he is prepared to supervise in-person marriages, and we may see some movement in that direction once we are off limited area cluster status.

Question 9

Can you give us a mattress update?

Answer

We are ordering them regularly. The mattresses are given out by priority for those whom have a unserviceable mattress, are elderly and those with medical needs. We are working to keep the process transparent.

We also have a clothing shortage, such as underwear, and are looking at alternative resources. We must keep watch on those who are flushing their old underwear to get the newer ones and this process clogs the drains.

Question 10

Can we talk to headquarters to speed up the process on mattress delivery?

Answer

Ask your Statewide Family Council (SFC) Representative Danielle White to bring this up at the next SFC meeting.

Comments/Closing

Even though we are off facility outbreak status, we will continue to have weekly meetings until things settle down more.

LFC Co-Secretary Kathleen Bechler is leaving to take a temporary promotion as a Resolution Specialist for the incarcerated. We will miss her but wish her the best in her new endeavors.

Thank you everyone. We will talk again new week.