

Local Family Council Covid-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details-

Facility: Olympic Corrections Center

Date and Time: 2/10/22 1:20 pm

Attendees-

Local Family Council Members Present:

Lindsey Perez

Kalen VanDuren

Rehonna Turner

Office of Correctional Ombuds:

Heather Hamilton, OCO

DOC Staff Present:

Jason Bennett, Superintendent

Scott Speer, CPM

Alvin Massenburg, PA

Kate Wahlgren, AA3

Meeting Guidelines:

- Meeting time will be one (1) hour.
- We will answer all questions first and open up for questions/comments afterwards.
- If any questions are left unanswered at the end of the meeting, we will add them to the next meeting.
- Please ensure your phones/computer are on mute.
- Please provide your name before asking a question or responding.
- **Please do not share COVID-19 informational with others, especially via social media.**
- If you or you know someone that has a loved one at OCC and would like to be added to the LFC list to receive call information, meeting minutes and other correspondence the facility may send out please send an email to emfriesz@doc1.wa.gov or katherine.wahlgren@doc.wa.gov

Numbers as of 2/14/2022:

Positives in last 30 days: 38

Total Confirmed Cases: 148

Deaths: 0

Weekly Updates-

OCC is no longer in a facility-wide outbreak, currently in a limited area outbreak. The Ozette unit is back to normal operations, Hoh unit remains on quarantine.

Testing-

Staff: Staff test on a weekly basis. During an outbreak they are required to test twice weekly.

Incarcerated Individuals: The Hoh unit is still being tested. There will be one more round of tests next week to determine if the quarantine can be lifted.

Operations-

The only operations effected at this time are in the Hoh unit due to the continued quarantine. Individuals within the Hoh unit that are considered recovered from COVID are allowed movement outside the unit. We have reengaged our work with DNR on a limited basis at this time.

Safe Start-

No updates

Vaccinations-

PA Massenburg advised that OCC has vaccines in stock and will be planning a vaccine/booster clinic.

Questions/Concerns received:

- Social Distancing protocols- We follow protocols established on the advice of the CDC and Washington State Department of Health. In reviewing the mandates coming from the governor's office there is no specific mandate for social distancing. The closure of the Clearwater Unit was a decision from Headquarters.

- Medical Attention in Isolation- Individuals on isolation are seen by medical at least once daily and those who are symptomatic are seen at least twice daily. Individuals do have the right to refuse medical attention but no one has been denied medical attention. Medical emergencies are reported to the on-call medical provider.
 - Why are they not social distancing in isolation? – This was a medical decision out of headquarters clinical, there is no risk of catching COVID if they presently have it or recently recovered. While individuals are in the unit there is a guideline to keep to yourself and avoid people if you have symptoms. Medical staff give the same counsel as they would in private practice- wash hands, wear masks, avoid contact over 10 minutes, because this is important to limit the spread of the COVID virus.
- Covid Testing and Screening- Staff are tested weekly, not every day. When we are on cluster status staff is required to test twice weekly, PCR and Rapid Antigen. Staff that have contact with a positive case may test more frequently. There are also times where we as an organization would have an extreme situation where we need to test daily. (this has not happened yet.) Staff go through a screening process every day, are asked if they are having symptoms, have been told to self-isolate, taken their weekly test, etc. Staff temperature is also taken every day as they walk in the door. Testing procedures are established by clinical. Staff are tested once a week and visitors are tested each time they visit because we may only see them once a week or less.
 - Link to most current testing guidelines:
<https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/100-SP015.pdf>
- N95 Masks- N95 masks were made voluntary for incarcerated individuals and for staff in non-isolation areas. For those required to wear N95 masks there are specific guidelines for wear, including medical guidelines and fit testing. Very few members of the population have chosen to use the N95s, but they are available. Because it is voluntary for the incarcerated population they do not have to be fit tested.
- Excessive Quarantine/Isolation moves due to short staff, concern about sanitation and clean linens-
 - For clarification, quarantine is different than isolation. When a positive case is identified in quarantine they are moved to isolation.
 - When there was movement within/between units there were cleaning supplies available. There may have been an issue early on, but the process has been fixed. We also recognize that contracting COVID via contact is a lower risk than contacting via airborne particles.
 - Moving individuals from one isolation unit/area to another wasn't just due to staffing, it was also due to the volume of positive cases. When the outbreak started we considered moving cases to the Bogachiel unit, but

quickly recognized that we may outgrow that unit and therefore needed to use the Clearwater unit. As numbers lowered we relocated the last 26 individuals into the Bogachiel which had reduced need for staffing. When we need the higher staffing (in the Clearwater Unit) we did not hesitate to staff it to keep the facility safe.

- Linens/laundry- This was an issue earlier on but has been resolved. Initially there were shortages due to manpower. As we got the laundry manager in, he came in on his weekends to get caught up. Then as we had more II workers available they were able to help. This was resolved about three weeks ago.
- Visitation- We are following the safe start guidelines, and guidance from Headquarters clinical personnel, we recognize the value to visitation and also look forward to starting it when safe to do so.

We will schedule a meeting for next Thursday and then transition to every other. We anticipate/hope we will be out of outbreak status by then.