

Local Family Council COVID 19 Teleconference

Stafford Creek Corrections Center

April 22, 2020 10:00am

Facilitator: Gina Penrose, Associate Superintendent of Programs

Attendance: SCCC staff: Supt. Haynes, ASP Penrose, Admin. Asst. Tatro, CPM Bohon, CPM Sec. Senior Myers

HQ: J. Barclay, P. Perkinson OCO: M. Gyde Family Services: C. Melhuish

LFC family officers: Family State Rep Cooksey, Family Co-Chair Fry & Family Secretary Lewis

LFC family members: D. Sifres, E. Broussard, J. Revay, L. Taylor, S. Babcock, V. Westman, D. Williams, K. Wilks, J. Dameron, V. Clark, T. Light, S. Gumabon, J. Griggs, S. Hitchcock

Purpose – To obtain information related to the COVID 19 outbreak and send to the families to help them understand the steps being taken by DOC to keep the Incarcerated Individuals safe and healthy.

Updates to questions from last week:

1. Quarantine – When an incarcerated individual is quarantined, the designated family member chosen receives phone call.
2. Isolation – When an incarcerated individual is in isolation, the designated family member chosen receives status updates.
3. Releases – On 4-16-20 info. was released by DOC regarding Governor Inslee’s issuance of emergency commutation to allow for the release of incarcerated individuals that met specific criteria. For details and additional information, go to doc.wa.gov.
4. Hand sanitizer – Last week SCCC installed jugs of hand sanitizer in every pod of all units as well as other areas within the facility. DOC HQ sent out a memo to all incarcerated individuals via kiosk on 4-18-20 outlining the appropriate usage of hand sanitizer with a critical warning that it not be ingested. Due to the incarcerated drinking the hand sanitizer, all units had them removed. Hand sanitizer is now only available in the dining hall with direct staff supervision.

Questions/Answers from this week:

1. Q – Why are the sick people going to G unit when they have men in G unit with compromised immune systems?
A – G unit is our designated unit for ISO/quarantine and pandemic issues as they are wet cells with running water. We have very few quarantine and ISO incarcerated individuals and we continue to maintain 0 positive COVID-19 cases of staff and population.

2. Q – When is SCCC getting dishwashers?
A – We have no plans of getting dishwashers at the facility. We use a Department of Health approved 3 sink process.
3. Q – What is SCCC going to do about the video visits not working? What good are free video visits when it notoriously doesn't work? The prison needs to either fix the problem on their end or require JPay to correct it.
A – We have contacted JPay again to fix the video problems and they are working on it along with fixing other issues. This is a statewide problem, not just at SCCC. Please be patient during this process.
4. Q - I heard that a wedding for one of the inmates is supposed to happen in June. If the Governor lifts the stay at home order before then, will the wedding be allowed to happen even if regular visiting has not resumed?
A – Until we have updated information from the Governor as to moving forward, questions regarding weddings cannot be addressed. We continue to have no visitors, no EFV's and no volunteers coming into the facility.
5. Q – What is the plan for Ramadan?
A – Ramadan begins 4-23-20 at sunset and concludes 5-23-20 at sunset. Incarcerated individuals will be allowed access to water, ice machines and the microwaves between the hours of 03000-0445 for a 15 minute span each morning. All participants will need to wake themselves; it is not up to staff to do so. There should be no corporate prayer being conducted in the units. The participants should be doing their prayers individually in their cell. A list of Ramadan participants has been sent out to the units.
6. Q – There are dishwashing concerns as some of the inmates do not feel incentivized to ensure trays, silver and dishes are sanitized. Trays are dirty, greasy and not sanitized.
A – The Food Services Manager is addressing the staff responsible for supervising the process to ensure the hot water is 165 degrees and proper cleaning/disinfecting is being done.
7. Q – Many family members are being told that the thickness of the masks is causing difficulty breathing. We heard that changes are being made. If this is true, when will the new masks be traded out?
A – We have been working on ear loop masks being made for the incarcerated. Our first 2 dozen were given out yesterday to those incarcerated individuals considered to be high risk. Additional masks are continuing to be made and options for extra hours for workers are being offered in an attempt to get as many masks out as quickly as possible.
8. Q - Why is the prison able to provide religious meal substitutions but not diabetic substitutions? The religious menu would be far better for the diabetic population than the carbs they are currently getting.
A – Brent Carney is the HQ Dietician statewide and he is the person who makes the diabetic meals guidelines. The religious meals are done per religious guidelines.

9. Q - It does not sound like proper care or the proper way to put on & take off a mask is being communicated to the inmates.
A – We are encouraging individuals to wash their masks daily, using the other mask while the first mask is drying. All individuals were provided with 2 masks.
10. Q – There are many questions regarding the altercation between the guards and inmate with asthma who removed his mask along with 2 others that is on Facebook. It was reported they excessively used pepper spray and that the massive dose of pepper spray the inmates were given no medical attention for.
A – There is a lot of misinformation being put out. We had 3 incarcerated individuals that stood against staff on the breezeway that many staff responded to. OC was disseminated after many attempts to dialogue with those individuals. Unfortunately, compliance was not successful resulting in the dissemination of OC.
11. Q – Although the directive is that all staff and inmates are to wear masks, there are many reports by different people in different units that some of the guards & staff are not wearing masks. If the inmates are being infraacted for not wearing masks, will the guards be disciplined as well?
A – It is our expectation that staff will wear PPE for the protection of the incarcerated population and for their own protection. However, we face some of the same issues that the general public and that our incarcerated individuals face – that is, some people are more resistant to the requirements of the “new normal” than we would like. We continue to work with staff, educating and explaining the need to wear the required gear, just like we continue to work with the incarcerated population on the same tasks. As far as cleaning public areas goes, our unit supervisors have been empowered to hire additional porters and are actively trying to keep those porters moving and cleaning for their entire shifts. In the end, we will continue to encourage staff and the incarcerated alike to clean, to socially distance themselves, and to wear the PPEs provided.

UPDATES:

Voluntary Quarantine Process – The WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing and Infection Control Guideline states that HSRs may be issued by the Facility Medical Director to allow patients identified as “very high risk for severe disease” to receive medications and meal delivery to the cell-front on a case-by-case basis. It will be necessary for incarcerated individuals to sign up for sick call to begin the process. When an incarcerated individual receives this HSR, they should be treated as laying in. They are required to give the pod officer their ID and may not go to programs except religious ceremonies. They should not go to yard, “hang out” in the dayroom or go to mainline. They are allowed to use the restroom as needed, shower as needed, and use the amenities (i.e. hot shot, ice, hones, microwave and JPay) as needed.