

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** Stafford Creek Corrections Center

**Date and Time:** 8-12-20

## Attendees

- SCCC Staff – Associate Penrose, ICP, AA3 Tatro & CPM Secy Myers
- HQ – R. Herzog & P. Perkinson
- LFC Officers: State Rep Cooksey, Family Secy Lewis & Co-Chair Fry
- Family members – D. Sifres, J. Revay, V. Westman, J. Dameron, K. Stuart Stevenson, S. Wade, J. Triggs & B. Duschene

**Special Guest:** DOC Assistant Secretary, Rob Herzog, joined the teleconference today and spoke to the LFC officers/family members providing answers to questions from the group.

## Weekly Updates

- GTL has extended two free phone calls of up to 5 minutes per week through August 31, 2020. This was sent to the units for posting.
- Video visits – A notice was sent to the units to allow video visits to continue when celling in pod for mainline.
- To follow-up on programming status, an attachment to today's teleconference notes includes many details regarding Education programs at SCCC through Grays Harbor College. Please review the attachment and gather any questions you might have for our 8-26-20 LFC meeting where GHC Dean of Education for DOC, Jayme Peterson, will be in attendance and fielding Education related questions.
- Purchasing face coverings – Superintendent Haynes posted a kiosk message to the population on 8-10-20 that HQ has reiterated incarcerated individuals will NOT be allowed to purchase any type of face coverings. Any face coverings purchased by incarcerated individuals or their family or friends will be rejected per Property Matrix Policy 440.010.
- Regular LFC meeting/teleconference is scheduled for 8-26-20 at 3:00pm using the same call-in information used for our COVID-19 teleconferences. This will be an open forum for any questions including those that are COVID related. The two chosen topics for presentation that day will be WA ONE/ITJS/JOBS/HUB CLEARANCE by CPM Bohon and Education by Jayme Peterson.
- Associate Penrose updated the group on SCCC COVID numbers to include: 1 on separation tier, 0 ISO, 0 quarantine and 0 positive.
- Kitchen worker schedule changes – Kitchen worker crews have been rebuilt to reduce the number of living units working on a single crew. This will help us contain the spread of COVID-19, if or when it reaches our facility. A memo was sent via kiosk to the population on 8-7-20 outlining this necessary measure. Please note that kitchen worker hours were reduced rather than jobs lost.
- Extra hours for kitchen workers – Associate Penrose clarified if extra hours are necessary for kitchen operations, the individuals that work the extra hours will be paid for hours worked up to the max cap of \$55.00 per month.
- Cohorting OWC (Outside Work Crew) – The OWC was moved into one unit (H4) as a safety measure to contain the spread of COVID-19, if or when it enters SCCC.

## Question from last week:

Per K. Stuart Stevenson – Would like those incoming transfers to be quarantined for an additional 14 days after arrival to SCCC. Is there a HQ response?

### Answer

There is an established process for all incoming transfers and any changes will be due to recommendations from the CDC and Health Department. This process is the same for those outside in the community (i.e. jails). These individuals are placed into intake separation and are tested before being released into general population.

## Pre-Submitted Questions –

### Question 1

Do inmates that work in high traffic areas who are vulnerable medically have to work? Basically, if they are vulnerable medically, are they able to transfer to a different job or, if they ask to be removed for medical reasons, can they have their old job back when the threat from the pandemic is lessened or over?

### Answer

Anybody that leaves their job on their own, will have to go through the hiring process after COVID 19. However, if an individual is removed by the supervisor due to reduction of forces, they will be offered a new assignment or the old assignment first.

### Additional Question 2

Per V. Westman, if an incarcerated individual asks to be removed from current job due to COVID-19, will that individual be punished?

### Answer

No, all incarcerated individuals are allowed to request from their counselor to be removed from their job assignment without penalty or infraction. However, if the incarcerated individual simply fails to report to work at the time they are scheduled, that will be responded to as “refusing work.”

### Question 3

Does SCCC Medical have the staff and capacity to deal with rising cases? What about PPE and special equipment, i.e., ventilators, negative pressure rooms? Where will critically ill individuals be held/sent? Will family be notified of medical transfers? Where is the nearest hospital capable of Covid care?

### Answer

SCCC has supplies and the ability to request more as necessary. If SCCC cannot handle any medical treatment or needs, an individual can be moved to obtain necessary treatment. The Warehouse is now storing PPE's and send out to other facilities as requested.

### Question 4

Why are individuals being denied yard? Outside is safer, provides more opportunity for social distancing and exercise and is good for mental health and morale.

Answer

SCCC's population are not being denied yard time. All housing units have the opportunity to receive yard and recreation each day, one unit at a time.

#### Question 5

It is said that one of the positive cases worked in the kitchen. What are the plans for disinfection and stepped up cleaning?

Answer

One of the individuals that had been identified as positive originally was from the kitchen. As these cases are identified, sanitization of an area would be appropriate by the area supervisor. However, take into consideration that we didn't get the notice until almost a week after the last worked shift. So, the cleaning must be a regular practice, not a reaction to a case.

#### Question 6

Will transfers/chains be tested and quarantined upon arrival regardless of protocol at Shelton intake and transfers from other facilities?

Answer

All incoming transfers are screened by HQ's Transport Team prior to being transferred to include double negative COVID-19 testing.

### Additional Questions

#### Question 1

Per D. Sifres, there are an increase in COVID-19 cases in Grays Harbor County. Is there an increase in testing for the C/O's at SCCC, especially since they are working at other prisons? Is it just a temperature check or is it a swab test?

Answer

SCCC does not qualify for serial staff testing such as at CRCC where they have a much higher rate of COVID-19 positive cases.

#### Question 2

Per B. Duschene – what is being done about the dirty silverware/trays?

Answer

FSM Attard continues to work with staff to improve the cleaning/sterilization process of the silverware/trays with the kitchen work crews.

#### Question 3

Per B. Duschene – Can the population bring in their own personal silverware to mainline?

Answer

It was decided by the ICP (Incident Command Post) that they didn't want to initiate personal silverware being permitted inside the dining hall; therefore, this request was subsequently denied.

#### Question 4

K. Stuart Stevenson began asking questions regarding an HSR for her son in H2, as well as concerns with commissary and the quarterly food packages.

#### Answer

It was decided that Associate Penrose would address these questions via email since they are personal in nature.

#### Question 5

S. Wade began asking questions regarding the banking processes here at SCCC now that her husband has transferred from WCC.

#### Answer

It was decided that Associate Penrose would address these questions via email since they are personal in nature.

#### Question 6

Per J. Dameron, what is the process for getting food when an incarcerated individual is in the middle of a JPay video visit when mainline is called?

#### Answer

That individual has the option of ending the video visit and going to mainline or continuing with the video visit and skipping mainline for that meal. Many of our population purchase their own food rather than go to mainline for their meals.

#### Comments/Closing –

Co-Chair M. Fry states that the rumor mill is alive and well and we all should go directly to the source for our answers rather than assuming what we hear is the truth. We need to show patience towards staff members, especially those that work on the front line daily with the population and our loved ones. Staff are worn out and stretched to the maximum and a little bit of understanding can go a long way in getting things done and questions answered.