

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Stafford Creek Corrections Center

Date and Time: 12-2-20

Attendees

- SCCC Staff – Associate Penrose, ICP & CPM Bohon
- Other DOC staff – Caroline Melhuish, Family Services; Communications Paige Peterson; OCO – M. Gyde
- LFC Officers: State Rep Susan Cooksey; Co-Chair Miriam Fry & Secretary Vanessa Lewis
- Family members – Diane Sifres, Emily Broussard, Jeannette Revay, Julie Triggs, Loren Taylor, Katie Wilks Duaa Hunter, Jenny Griggs, Shari Acker, Todd Young, Sarah Hitchcock, Bethany Duschene, Diane Webb Cristelli, David & Katherine Kaiser

WEEKLY UPDATES AND EMAILED QUESTIONS:

1. **Staff Serial Testing –**
Total positive results: 14
2. **SCCC'S CURRENT COVID-19 NUMBERS:**
4 Positive Incarcerated
H1 quarantined
Over 400 incarcerated individuals tested at this time, we have not received results to the mass testing yet.
3. **Co-horting Kitchen worker Crews-**
Due to the increase of covid cases, SCCC has developed a new work schedule which co-horts all kitchen crews by unit. Each shift will have two units, they will be called to the kitchen separately and kept separate while working in the kitchen. Thus, hopefully will reduce the spread of covid.
4. **Program temporary cancellation-**
SCCC has cancelled all programs to include all education, gym and religious activities until further notice as we cannot run these programs while co-horting by unit.
5. **Pruno Searches took place-**
SCCC performed pruno searches due to suspicion, the searches expanded in the units due to an large amount of pruno being discovered.
6. **Black Mold alert-**
It was brought to SCCC's attention that there was black mold in the kitchen; the area of concern was by the dishtank. It was scrubbed and bleached and it was determined that it was a discoloration of the grout, but not mold. We continue to sanitize all areas in the prison and if found mold will be removed immediately with a sense of urgency.

Participant Questions –

Question 1

Julie Triggs-Is it written about hand sanitizer instead of gloves being changed between each cell search? Can the sanitizer be used by the staff where the incarcerated can see the staff using it so it reduces their stress?

Answer:

The Pruno checks were not a “cell search”, it requires minimal touching of items within the cell, the officers used sanitizer as an alternative which was authorized. We will have further discussions to see what we can do in the future.

Question 2

Loren Taylor-Will you be testing all of the population? AHCC is testing them all. Are the ISO guys required to wear orange jumpsuits?

Answer

At this time SCCC has not been directed to test all of the population, this will be reviewed continually and can change at any time. Yes the incarcerated population in isolation must wear orange jumpsuits, this is to reduce contamination and enable the facility to launder the items as well.

Question 3

Miriam Fry- Are there any more layoffs coming? Food is still a concern, since the population is getting lunch boats on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday with peanut butter, would it be possible to change one of those boats to a breakfast boat so that it will have meat with peanut butter??

Answer

There are not any more layoffs scheduled at this time. I will reach out to the food service manager and relay your request.

Question 4

Sarah Hitchcock-Were the positives received from the tests taken on Monday? When will test results come in? What property are the incarcerated individuals on ISO/Quarantine allowed to take with them? Can they take their store or packages with them?

Answer

The positive results were from earlier tests than the serial testing that began on Monday. Those results are expected back around Thursday. They are allowed their JPay units, phone books and personal hygiene items. They cannot take already in possession store or package items, but can order store and receive new orders as they will be delivered.

Question 5

Susan Cooksey-I wanted to get clarification of gloves being changed between cell searches. Also, can rapid tests be given to all staff as they enter into the facility every day? Our family members are reporting that staff are telling them that it's their fault that these positive cases have happened, because they aren't maintaining social distancing. They also ran out of toilet paper, paper towels, and soap and staff were very slow in restocking the items and told the incarcerated individuals that they were using too much. Last night I/I's were taken to be tested and returned to their unit, what good is that? Will the mailroom or banking be closed due to anymore furloughs or temporary layoffs?

Answer

The gloves were not changed, the officers used hand sanitizer between each cell, these were not cell searches where all of personal property was gone through and handled. DOC doesn't use rapid tests due to the level of inaccuracy. All units are expected to maintain enough supplies to make it through

the week, if they run out of an item they have to contact the warehouse and get an emergency order filled. This should happen within a reasonable time frame and will be reviewed that it is happening and that units increase orders where necessary to avoid outages in the future. We screened the selected individuals for symptoms; fever and questionnaire, if they were found to be symptomatic they were relocated to a quarantine area. Then after screenings were completed they all were tested. All furloughs and temporary layoffs are completed at this time.

Question 6

Katie Wilks-Fundraiser was planned and money was removed from the incarcerated individuals accounts, will this still happen, if not will they be refunded their money?

Answer

I will reach out to see how we will move forward with this fundraiser.

Question 7

Duaa Hunter-Are the incarcerated individuals and staff getting mental health attention, this is a very stressful time and they need support to ensure all are okay?

Answer

Mental health and medical make daily rounds for the population on isolation and quarantine and we have staff counselors that visit and make rounds to ensure staff are doing well, we also have our CISM team which sees staff as well. The CISM team is trained to counsel staff after traumatic incidents, thank you for your concerns.

Question 6

Diane Webb-Cristelli-Do you have an emergency operational plan that is available to the public? Do you do communications to the population? With all going on can we schedule a meeting next week? Will it be the same number and code?

Answer

We follow an emergency operations plan, however, it's not available for public viewing. Yes, we communicate almost daily with the population, depending on how many if any changes are happening. Yes, I will get with the technology team to add a meeting next Wednesday at 1500 hours and you will have to look at your invite to get the appropriate code for the call in.

Question 6

Todd Young-Do you hold books before delivering them to the incarcerated individuals? It seems like it takes longer for books to get to them than it does letters.

Answer

No, they are processed just like first class mail, sometimes a delay will happen if there isn't a cell assignment on the package.

Question 6

Jeannette Revay- When an incarcerated individual tests positive will you notify us (family)?

Answer

No, we will not notify anyone due to HIPAA laws. However, I want to remind all of you about the Information Disclosure Authorization form # 13-035. If you have one on file you will have a password and be able to gain access to your loved ones status. We covered this in a previous meeting about a year ago, and it's very important to have this in place before something happens. The old form expired every six months, it has been revised, so have your incarcerated loved one contact medical with a medical kite and ask the status of the authorization on file and medical will assist them with setting another one up if necessary.

Question 6

Bethany Duschene-During Holidays when staff are off and take extra time off for vacations and with the positive tests and mapping, how will we get information. We are stressed out and need to know we will be informed as things progress.

Answer

Headquarters communications has set up a team to ensure that accurate and consistent communications go out to all LFC's and public. I will no longer be answering your emails regarding COVID 19 as I have in the past. So this will be covered no matter who is out.

Question 6

Miriam Fry-Associate Supt. Van Ogle sent us several updating emails/memos since you were out and it was greatly appreciated.

Answer

Thank you Miriam, we are glad the communications you received were helpful.

Comments/Closing – Thank you to all who participated in today's teleconference. Please stay safe and hope that you can join again for next week's teleconference at 1500 hours on Wednesday.