

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Stafford Creek Corrections Center

Date and Time: 12-30-20

Attendees

- SCCC Staff – Associate Penrose; CPM Bohon – ICP; IT5 Bradley; K. Tatro, AA3; Sec. Sen. D. Myers
- LFC Officers: State Rep S. Cooksey; Co-Chair M. Fry & Secy. V. Lewis
- Family members –J. Griggs, D. Sifres, J. Revay, S. Hitchcock, B. Duschene, K. & D. Kaiser, J. Triggs, C. Carl, S. Ice, T. Goddard, E. Broussard, T. Miller, E. McKinnon

WEEKLY UPDATES

1. JPay offerings extended – An extension of JPay offerings and free services or discounts will continue through 2-28-21. This includes: A) Free Reply Wednesdays – when your loved one sends an e-message on a Wednesday during this promotional period, the JPay system will include a prepaid reply at no cost; you may use the free reply any time but can only reply back to original sender; B) 2 free video visitation calls added to your loved one's JPay account. The free call credits will continue to be replenished each week moving forward until further notice. Your loved one must use the video visitation credits to receive the new ones each week. C) 2 free JPay stamps in your account. The 2 free stamps will be replenished every Friday afternoon, so your account will have up to 2 free JPay stamps each week. Must use the stamps to receive new ones each week. In addition, until the Department can safely resume visitation across facilities, all II's will continue to receive 2 free 5 minute calls per week.

[Questions for this week's meeting](#) – some of the questions submitted for this week are repeats, so the remaining questions will be covered today.

Question 1

The food continues to be subpar and inadequate to keep the men healthy and full. Why can't Stafford purchase some foods locally as they did before CI so that the men have decent meals?

Answer

Food Services is doing their best to provide two (2) hot meals and one (1) cold meal daily. All meals are developed per the menu provided and approved by the State Dietician. Extra fruits are being added to the meals as much as possible.

Question 2

I understand that Stafford ran out of goody bags so not all of the men received them. How could this happen? And, what is being done to make sure that it doesn't happen again?

Answer

SCCC continues to make up goody bags and activity packets for the population; however, not all II's receive them at the same time due to the large volume and amount of time it takes to make them. However, all II's will receive both.

Question 3

I also understand that there are some I I's that have not received a change of clothing in many days. Asking for clean clothes doesn't seem to work.

Answer

Property and state clothing are being issued out to I I's on a schedule reflecting their status with COVID19. Extra staff have been added to Property & Clothing to speed up the process for those that are clear to have their property back.

Question 4

What is being done to protect I I's legal paperwork? It is concerning that their legal paperwork can be seen and gone through by staff. This information is private and should be protected. Can something be done to correct this?

Answer

At the alternate housing sites (Gym, Education, Visit Room & CI Lunchroom), we have added CC2's to work with the population on their legal paperwork.

Question 5

We were told that the I I's had to urinate in garbage cans/plastic bags as the cell doors were locked during the lockdown. Can't the doors be unlocked so the I I's are free to use the bathrooms when needed? It is terrible to expect the I I's to not have the ability to use the restrooms and have to urinate in garbage cans/plastic bags.

Answer

There are separate bathrooms for those in quarantine and designated bathrooms per the cohort schedule for each unit. Each pod has four (4) restrooms; of those four (4), one (1) is set aside for those I I's on quarantine. After use, it is sanitized to stop the spread of germs. The staff have been directed to follow the cohort schedules and an extra officer is assigned to assist with bathroom breaks when possible. Classification staff are also supporting Custody staff with bathroom breaks. The doors will remain locked.

Participant Questions –

Question 1

Per S. Hitchcock, has anyone looked at the meals and the small amount the I I's are being given? The boats were supposed to have two (2) sandwiches, but instead might have a cookie and one (1) sandwich. This is not even a full boat. In addition, when the food is being prepared, care needs to be taken so that the food is actually edible rather than just a Hodge podge.

Answer

This information is being passed along to our Food Services Manager; he has been invited to attend the meeting on the 6th.

Question 2

Per S. Hitchcock, the rules in H2 haven't been updated since 12/16 and with the fill-in C/O staff that are new, their rules are different than the regular C/O staff. There seems to be much confusion and it is affecting our loved ones. Can the rules be updated and shared with all unit staff so that our loved ones actually know what to do?

Answer

To eliminate confusion, the Operations Chief in the ICP will create a clear and concise order of operations so that staff and II's are equally informed. Please be patient with us during this process.

Question 3

Per S. Cooksey, I have concerns about restarting the 14 days over when an II tests positive within the same cohort and have concerns about SCCC's II testing protocol.

Answer

The incarcerated have to do a minimum of two negative tests, while having 14 days of quarantine status as asymptomatic. If anyone in the cohort tests positive or becomes symptomatic in that 14 day time period, then all of the quarantine individuals in that cohort start their 14 days over. At times it can take over a month to get 14 days of uninterrupted asymptomatic quarantine completed. This process is necessary to ensure the spread of COVID-19 throughout the facility is minimal and accurate contact mapping can occur if individuals do test positive in a cohort.

Question 4

Per B. Duschene, can the units be provided with copies of policies for the population to view, especially since there is no Law Library?

Answer

Yes, these can be sent to the units and alternate housing areas and can be of great help to our incarcerated during this time. All Unit Supervisors have been tasked with making sure relief staff make the Policy Books available to the population. Books are being made for the Alternative Housing Areas.

Question 5

Per B. Duschene, my loved one is a diabetic and I am concerned that the lunches are not adequate per nutritional guidelines. Also, there hasn't been any veggies since Thanksgiving.

Answer

As previously stated, the Department follows the dietary guidelines as set by the State Dietician. The Food Service Manager will be invited to attend the next meeting.

Question 6

Per Katherine & David Kaiser, can pill line announcement be louder? Our loved one has missed his medications and we are concerned about the distribution of medications. Also, is there a policy on how/where you house each incarcerated individual?

Answer

Dispensing of medications is separate from operations. The nurses visit the units & alternate housing units pursuant to processes they have put into place. I will follow-up this request with Health Services as to how they are managing the medication schedule. We are down to approximately 12 incarcerated

individuals in the gym at this time and approximately 13 individuals in CI lunchroom as far as alternative housing. Upon refilling if and when necessary, the staff in those areas will ensure the incarcerated return to their cots when Medical enters to help everyone have access to them.

Regarding a policy on how each II is housed, we don't have a written policy regarding housing specifics, cohorting and covid requirements. Instead we have protocols as categorized by testing results & status to include positive (active), positive (recovered), quarantine, inconclusive & refused testing. Each category is maintained by respective, different protocol. These protocols are always under review for best practices and are sent out to all staff & all II's upon update; I will review these during next week's teleconference. This should help alleviate some of the confusion and provide clear direction for staff and your loved ones.

Question 7

Per Katherine & David Kaiser, when our loved ones are residing in an alternative housing area, how can they get their medical concerns addressed?

Answer

If an II is housed in a positive area, nursing staff check all II's per the direction of HQ clinical leadership. All II's in these areas have the opportunity to have their medical questions addressed during these check-ins. Also, kites are still available in all housing areas so that II's can physically write their concerns down to be answered by medical staff.

Question 8

Per C. Carl, my loved one has received four (4) tests with no results received. How are our loved ones supposed to know what's going on with their testing when they don't receive any information?

Answer

Health Services hand out test results to the population in a sealed envelope; however, they are very short staffed which makes this process take time. It is important that the incarcerated receive the correct results and the results are in an appropriately sealed envelope. These will be handed out to all II's, but the staff have to have time to ensure the process is followed before each result can be given out to that individual. The results will get to your loved ones as quickly as possible.

Question 9

Per S. Ice, my loved one was moved to H1 eight (8) days ago with a positive result. He has now been moved to H2 with symptoms and there are more positive II's around him. Why would he and others be moved to H2 if they have symptoms and/or are positive?

Answer

Please send our office an email with your loved one's name & number for follow-up this evening.

Question 10

Per E. Broussard, my loved one is in H2 A pod with kidney issues that causes him to urinate a lot. Can the doors be unlocked so the II's can use the restroom? Those individuals that are not COVID positive feel as if they are being punished as they don't have the same freedoms. Can they please have more time out of the cell at least?

Answer

Unfortunately, we cannot allow the doors to be unlocked as the II's were not following the established cohort schedule. However, if you send our office an email and include the name & DOC number of your loved one, I will look into this to make sure that H2 is properly following the cohort schedule for their unit. The individual you identified along with all others in H2 are not "positive." All are either in quarantine, recovered or not contracted COVID and passed their quarantine timeframe. The doors are secured because people do not follow directives.

Question 11

Per E. Broussard, is it safe for our loved ones to eat the food prepared by the kitchen workers?

Answer

The Kitchen workers who were positive are now recovered. These individuals are not contagious and are considered "recovered" as they have gone through the testing process from beginning to end. Those are the II's currently working in the kitchen.

Question 12

Per T. Miller, previously I asked about the ventilation system and if any changes had been made to SCCC's current system. Has there been any updates?

Answer

In positive areas, we have HEPA filters & air scrubbers installed pursuant to HQ's Health Services protocols. These are changed out regularly by our maintenance crew.

Question 13

Per T. Miller, my son has been in F unit for the past four (4) weeks. I was told that another individual was being moved into his cell before his property was actually moved out. Isn't there some sort of protocol in place to make sure everything is out of the cell before another II moves in?

Answer

There isn't a protocol; all staff have been instructed to move all II property out and clean the cell per protocol before another II moves in. Quality assurance checks will continue to be performed to ensure the cleaning is happening.

Question 14

Per T. Miller, my son is residing in F unit and did not get a cup or spork to eat his food with. He ended up eating it with his hands. He should be provided with a cup and spork for each meal.

Answer

Please have your loved one sends a kite to his unit Sergeant, who can ensure that he receives the appropriate utensils for his meal. If there is no response and this continues, please send an email to our office and we will get this addressed.

[Comments/Closing](#) – I would like to thank everyone for being on the call today. For those of you that have concerns, our office will be looking for your email so that we can properly follow-up on those issues. Please be safe and have a Happy New Year.