

# Statewide Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

**Some questions were grouped together as they were asked by more than one person.  
If specific questions about individuals were asked, they were removed.  
If you have specific questions about your loved one, please contact your local facility.**

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These are internal DOC communication lines, and are not for public posting.**

## Call Details

**Facility:** SFC Informational Call  
**Date and Time:** 07/10/2020 at 2:00 PM

## Attendees

Jeneva Cotton, DOC Co-Chair  
Yoshi Garcia, AHCC  
Leslie Redic, CCCC  
Stephanie Biedman, CRCC  
Felix D'Allesandro, MCC  
Paula Bond, MCCCW  
Susan Cooksey, SCCC  
Portia Hinton, WCC  
Wendy Dubinsky, WSP  
Dawn Taylor, DOC HQ  
Paige Perkinson, DOC HQ

## Weekly Update

- Provided information for the SFC Virtual Meeting on 07/18/2020
  - Agenda to be sent prior to meeting and posted on DOC website
- DOC incarcerated population: At start of COVID response (03/12) – 16,360; Date of call (07/10) – 14,970

## Pre-Submitted Questions

### Question 1

Could you ask in regards to the unfortunate deaths recently at Coyote. As well as the rapid outbreak and downward conditions there. With Yakima jails spiking as well. If they're considering more releases, since Columbia Legal Services brought attention to the Supreme Court to consider a decision on the situation possibly again anyways.

### Answer

Not at this time. Prison releases continue to occur on a daily basis, and our population continues to decrease.

### Question 2

And would they consider lifting program holds in moderation, since they could be completed out in the community, to allow inmates to release to help the social distancing at the facilities.

## Statewide Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes (Continued)

### Answer

Program holds are not related to release dates; removing program holds would not alter an individual's Earned Release Date in any way.

### Question 3

Could we get further clarification on families participating in LFC calls when a loved one has been transferred due to COVID19. This refers only to RCFs which we know are not being used as projected. In fact as of today there are only 15 people affected by a care facility. Families/visitors need to be able to participate in council calls where ever their LO is housed, even temporarily.

### Answer

HQ gave direction to Superintendents that they were to allow any loved ones in good standing with their loved ones' facility to attend calls that pertain to where their loved ones are currently housed. We will discuss this again during our weekly call, and if you continue to hear of problems, please Paige and Jeneva know via email and they will look into the matter.

### Question 4

CRCC has stopped providing soap. Can they please begin doing that?

### Answer

This is not accurate. Jeneva confirmed with CRCC that soap is stored and available in each unit upon request at no charge to the individual. They can request when retrieving meals, or when unit officers are conducting tier checks, or when they have day room time.

### Question 5

All of the confusion about who is housed where and why. For instance, inconclusive being housed with positives and even after two negative test results after being inconclusive, not being sent back to the housing unit where they came from.

### Answer

Those with inconclusive results were housed separately from all other individuals in an alternative housing location. Those that have had two negative results have returned to General Population housing within a cohort. If the result comes back as positive, they are moved to the positive housing unit.

## Additional Discussion

Submitted as a concern, but does not include a question:

The LOs of the men are very concerned about mental health with not being allowed out of their cells longer than 30 minutes (having to choose between calls, a shower, the kiosk, Jpay, kites, etc), not having access to the afresh air pads during that time. Also, families are still upset about the only 30 minutes out every day (if that happens), is an 8th amendment rights violation on cruel and unusual punishments where the **COURT** ruled on that anyone in confinement is not to be confined more than 23 hours a day.

Added 07/10: The families are still angry that they are not out for at least one hour in MI3. The court ruled on at least one hour out for those in confinement and they get 30 minutes. The families want this changed immediately and ask that it be looked at the state level.

### Response:

## Statewide Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes (Continued)

At this time we are working through an unprecedented pandemic response and the movement times at CRCC have been updated and relayed on the CRCC family council calls. Please refer to the CRCC LFC notes for the facility specific updates.

### Roundtable Questions

- 1) How many incarcerated individuals at CRCC are awaiting test results?  
A) Stephanie gave update from the CRCC LFC call earlier on same date
- 2) When will the SFC Virtual Meeting Agenda be sent out?  
A) Jeneva asked Rhonda and Suzanne to work together to finalize; once final version is sent to Jeneva she will send to SFC and post on website
- 3) What is taking so long for men to transfer from WCC to parent facilities?  
A) Jeneva discussed balancing need to minimize transports (chains), while also not overwhelming WCC, as DOC still has intakes from County Jails for new sentences, etc. There are still some movements happening, but at a greatly reduced rate from "normal". Portia asked for a review of some individuals, and Jeneva asked her to send an email with the information and she would look into it.
- 4) Are visit and EFV applications still being processed?  
A) Yes, applications are being processed for visitation, with continual focus on catching up on backlog. EFV applications are being processed, but decisions are pending until we have returned to visitation occurring, as records checks are only good for a certain period of time.
- 5) Why are transports occurring (example given was MCC to CRCC)?  
A) As noted above, transport decisions are based on need and to eliminate continuous overcrowding at WCC Reception. The example given was actually men returning to CRCC that were housed at MCC during their post isolation convalescent period, and were returning to their parent facility, with Clinical Leadership approval.
- 6) How will the Virtual Meeting be run?  
A) This is the first "public" virtual Skype meeting ran by DOC for SFC, so it will be a learning experience for everyone. Discussed logistics and how to log on via computer (rather than calling in). Information will be shared with the agenda on the website on how to access Skype via computer (Thank you also to Susan Cooksey who also provided information on this topic!)
- 7) Why are showers only once per week for those on medical isolation?  
A) As noted on previous calls and in previous notes, this is the guidance from the Clinical Leadership to reduce the amount of infection spread at the time when individuals are the most critical for spreading the virus.

Submitted in writing per request due to call ending:

- 8) Although there may not be transfers to camp, will the men be sent to camp AT CRCC if they are already AT CRCC once they test double negative? We have men who could have been transferred but for no other reason than COVID, have not.  
A) At this time we are not placing anyone in the MI2 facility at CRCC due to density reduction efforts.
- 9) What do the supplies for a bird bath consist of? I need to ask if CRCC is providing that bc it has not once been reported there is anything like that from the guys nor Michelle or jeff or medical staff.  
A) This is a question to ask on your LFC calls, as it is managed locally.

## Statewide Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes (Continued)

- 10) The shower every 7 days issue: once they are in the hole/iso it is staffed already for the amount of men there. The men cannot shower together already if they are in the hole and everyone is supposed to be following PPE protocol so why NOT let them shower more often? Understanding you had addressed this already on the call today, I would still like to hear a response on this specifically, please.
- A) This has been addressed several times. As noted previously, “Those patients that are symptomatic and awaiting test results or are positive with COVID-19 should not be in contact with others during the highest time of shedding the disease. Strict separation is occurring in hospitals where patients are not allowed out of their rooms; in the public communities, people who are symptomatic or COVID-19 positive are asked to remain in their homes. Both in hospital rooms and community settings, people have access to showers without leaving. Unfortunately prisons were not designed for a pandemic and most incarcerated individuals share shower areas and do not have them in their individual cells. The intention with medical isolation is to keep those individuals away from others during the initial, contagious shedding period, to greatly reduce the chances of the virus being spread to others. At this time, we will continue to utilize the 7-day shower protocol for those on medical isolation.”
- 11) Will everyone be *required* to identify themselves on the statewide call?
- A) We will do the best we can to have everyone identify themselves to ensure everyone on the call is recognized.

## Comments/Closing

- Next SFC Informational Call on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM