

# 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 COVID Informational Call  
**Date and Time:** 10/02/2020 at 2:00 PM

## Attendees

Jeneva Cotton, SFC DOC Co-Chair

Rhonda Roberts, SFC DOC Secretary

HQ: Dawn Taylor, Paige Perkinson, Tim Birley, Lisa Flynn

AHCC Yoshi Garcia

CRCC Stephanie Biedman

MCC Felix D'Allesandro

MCCCW Paula Bond

SCCC Susan Cooksey

WCCW Jason Rice

WSP Wendy Dubinsky

OCO Joanna Carns

## Weekly Update

- Update re Safe Start Visitation
- Update re Elections

## Pre-Submitted Questions

### Question 1

I understand Stafford Creek publishes Covid-19 meeting notes and LFC meeting minutes on the DOC kiosk for the incarcerated to view. I don't know if they also share the SFC meeting minutes. Is this being done at other facilities in the State? I know it isn't being done at WSP, but I've raised the question if they could be.

### Answer

All Superintendents were asked to provide copies of LFC call notes and meeting minutes to the population, whether by posting in the living units, or by sending via kiosk. Please ask on your LFC call whether this has been happening or not. If your facility is not doing so, please let Jeneva know and she will follow up.

## Question 2

It is our understanding that HQ allowed certain recreational/religion activities at all facilities to resume in a limited capacity. WSP has been unable to resume these activities for various reasons, one of which is that they do not have a CPPC position filled due to the hiring freeze. What can HQ do to help WSP restart these essential activities for the incarcerated people?

### Answer

Answer from Dawn Taylor – [dmtaylor@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:dmtaylor@doc1.wa.gov)

Back in March when COVID hit, not only was visitation closed, but the access of volunteers statewide was restricted. This had a significant impact as the majority of religious, secular, and self-help programs are delivered by volunteers. Since that time, Religious Coordinators and CPPC's have been meeting regularly to explore opportunities to deliver programs. Many facilities have been able to successfully restart programs, however this presents a much bigger challenge at facilities such as WSP as it has 5 separate facilities with only 2 Religious Coordinators. What a facility is able to provide is dependent on resources such as technology, logistics, supervision, etc.

To WSP's credit, they were the first ones to jump in with an alternative method to provide religious services. The Religious Coordinators compiled a virtual library whereas they could hold services via a television channel for the population. Unfortunately, their plan was interrupted due the hardware obtained being not compatible with their current technology. They continue to explore this opportunity as are other facilities across the state. Religious needs are currently being met through distribution of religious materials by request, and the Religious Coordinators are walking the units weekly to talk with men. Individuals are still able to practice their faith, however just like in the community, it looks much different than it did pre-COVID.

WSP is without a CPPC at this time, however there are other staff that are currently assisting with the duties of the CPPC. They join us in our meetings and talk about alternatives moving forward. We have a great team that understands the importance of programs, and we will continue working together to identify opportunities and add programs as resources come available.

## Question 3

I expect to be questioned again on our LFC call regarding the posting of the ppt laying out the resumption of visitation that was presented during the most recent (9/19/2020) SFC meeting. What is the answer to relay to families on the LFC call? The MCC call is on Friday at 1 PM.

### Answer

Information is being sent to the incarcerated population as well as to staff with information regarding the phased reopening of visitation. Memos should be sent to both on 10/01/2020. Additionally, the website is being updated with current information by the end of the week.

## Question 4

There is currently prison related social media talk of UAs, in prison drug and alcohol use and how the incarcerated are obtaining substances. Are UAs being conducted? What results are being tabulated? And, with no visiting for over six months how are drugs getting into the prisons.

## Answer

This is not a COVID-related question. Please direct your questions regarding UAs to the local facilities. Updates re urinalysis testing during COVID can be found on the DOC website at <https://doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/safe-start.htm#drug-testing>.

## Additional Information

Tim Birley, Operational Capacity and Transportation Administrator, joined the call to discuss transfers and transports during the agency's COVID-19 response. Key points noted below:

- Reduced daily PRE-COVID frequency of transports by 50% immediately
- Reduced county jail transfers (new commitments) to bi-weekly instead of weekly
- Capacity – Density Reduction at MI2 “Camp” facilities to allow for social distancing
- Transfers prioritized by need: Medical, mental health, court-ordered treatment and programming, facility operations needing to be sustained (i.e., maintenance jobs, etc), contractual obligations (i.e., DNR, community work crews), transition/reentry planning, time left to serve, STG status, protection concerns, etc.

Q: Where are we in the transport percentage for transfers now?

A: Currently instead of transports leaving WCC 5 days a week, it's 5 days every other week.

Q: Where are the county jail transports going if not coming to WCC?

A: We still pick them up, but do it every other week instead. So they wait at the jail longer.

Q: How are you able to socially distance in transport vehicles?

A: With transports, several protocols put into place to provide safety as much as possible, i.e., advanced screening and temperatures taken by medical staff prior to any transport from a facility, I/I and staff must wear surgical masks, intake/receiving facility medical staff also does advanced screening and temperatures

## Comments/Closing

- Next SFC COVID-19 Informational Call: 10/16/2020 at 2:00 PM