

# 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.**

**Please do not share Local Family Council or Statewide Family Council Informational Calls  
Phone-In Information with others, especially via social media.  
These are internal DOC communication lines, and are not for public posting.**

## Call Details

**Facility:**

**Date and Time:** 10/22/2021, 2:00PM

## Attendees

- Lisa Flynn,
- Rachel Bisbee,
- Gwen McIlveen,
- Susan Cooksey,
- Wendy Dubinsky,
- Dawn Taylor,
- Monica Ritter,
- Arminda Miller,
- Paula Bond,
- Loren Taylor,
- Paige Perkinson

**Weekly Update** – Nothing new currently. All information on public website is current.

## Pre-Submitted Questions

### Question 1

Can we please get status, by facility, of the number of DOC employees that left due to Governor Inslee's vaccination mandate? What is the total impact?

Answer

At this time, approximately 92% of employees have been vaccinated with an additional percentage still pending review for exemptions. We continue to keep the Governor's Office informed of any impacts that we may have as we continue to address this evolving situation.

### Question 2

What is the impact on Incarcerated Individuals due to loss of staff?

Answer

Some facilities are experiencing periodic closures to recreation and other smaller programs, but it is not consistent. Each facility operates a bit differently with different challenges, so it is not a complete closure of any one program or service.

### Question 3

Are contingency plans in place? Rumor is less time out of cells, less yard time, less programming, etc.

#### Answer

DOC has been creating contingencies many weeks in advance to ensure the least possible effects to the incarcerated population. It would be best to check with each individual facility through the Local Family Council process to the specific impacts, as each facility is impacted independently.

### Comments/Closing

Rachel is wanting to know if individuals can get more visiting, since the visit numbers are so low. The one visit a month isn't sufficient and if there is an issue with visiting, families have to wait 30 days to be provided the opportunity to visit again. There are some issues regarding with new sergeants not following procedures (not testing on time, not allowing hand holding/hugging, ending visiting early, etc). Lisa is working on allowing board/card games and allowing photos again. Additional visits are also being discussed. There are still some staffing concerns and wanting to wait to see how the staff vacancies affect these programs. Can all the facilities post all the visiting rules in the visit room clearly?

Paula has received some questions regarding when the visit policy will be amended again. She also expresses some concerns regarding the visits only being allowed one visit a month for 3 hours. Is there a possibility that those family members that travel out of state to visit to be allowed the opportunity to have "special visiting."

Wendy discussed the idea of family members being allowed to bring in brand new games, in wrapper with receipt, to visiting again. It appears that WSP and AHCC use special visits, but there are different rules about who qualifies, since each facility has the flexibility to schedule these. Wendy also discussed that the EFVs have resumed at every facility except WSP, due to staffing issues.

Paula asked for data regarding the number of visit slots are being utilized for each visit at each facility, to be able to see how many vacancies there are. She is also asking for an explanation regarding special visits.

#### **Action Items:**

- Follow-up on additional visits due to space availabilities (Lisa/Liz/Myndi).
- Clarify general visit expectations for both staff and visitors in visit rooms to improve confusion (Lisa/Liz/Myndi).
- Return to special visit permissions at all facilities with Superintendent approvals and cohorting schedules. Update public website to clarify eligibility (Lisa/Liz/Myndi).
- Lodging Assistance Program (LAP) updates to be attached to special visit information (Dawn).

#### *Non-COVID Actions Items moved to SFC (11/20/2021 Admin meeting topics)*

- Reminder for DOC to share any kiosk communications with SFC to share with families. Recent communication inviting families to participate in LFC/SFC was sent out following the meeting (Lisa).
- Possible LFC listserv options for families to communicate due to concerns of sharing personal emails (Lisa/Loren).
- Possibility of sub-account set up for EFV payments to improve timeliness (Dawn).
- Discussion of SFC/LFC communication and upcoming family involvement in total policy revision (Group).