

Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference

Washington Corrections Center

March 26, 2020

1pm

**Facilitators:** Dean Mason- Associate Superintendent, Norman Goodenough- Health Care Manager, Justin Schlagel-Correctional Program Manager, Gerald Bailey-Correctional Unit Supervisor

**Attendees:**

*Daniel W. White- Superintendent*

*Jaycie Grisso- Family Council Member*

*Jenn Bullard- CPPC/Recorder*

*Joanna Carns- Office of OMBUDS*

*Amy Grubaugh- Family Council Member*

*Matthias Gyde- Office of OMBUDS*

*Candace Krueger- Family Council Member*

*Jackie Racus- Family Council Member*

*Mike Eby- DOC Family Services Unit*

*Paige Perkinson- Program Specialist 4*

*Jasmine Caldwell- Family Council Member*

*Rebecca Cabadas- Family Council Member*

*Kaishanna Grace- Family Council Member*

*Emijah Smith- Family Member (Guest)*

*Portia Linear- Family Council Member*

**Purpose** – to provide information to family and friends of our incarcerated population related to management of the COVID 19 outbreak. Specifically, what steps the Washington Corrections Center and the Department of Corrections as a whole are taking to keep the Incarcerated Individuals safe and healthy.

*Note from Superintendent Daniel W. White-*

*We appreciate the care and concern you have for your incarcerated loved one. We take great pride in all of the hard work being done to ensure the health, wellness, and safety of everyone living and working at the Washington Corrections Center. We take all of the concerns of the population very seriously and will continue to meet with them to hear their concerns going forward. Personally, I feel safer inside of this correctional environment than I do in any other place in society, save for maybe my own home. We will continue to uphold a high standard for humanity and sanitation every day.*

**Agenda Items:**

**Sanitation** – Sanitation measures have increased. At WCC, we have increased cleaning protocols to hourly cleanings in populated areas. All units are being provided a germicidal cleaner that is approved by the Health Department as effective for the COVID-19 virus. All incarcerated individuals are also encouraged to keep their cells and areas clean and wipe them down more frequently and wash their hands often. Common areas are being cleaned multiple

times a day. We have hired 11 new cleaning positions to clean and deep clean high traffic areas such as the showers, phones, equipment and dayrooms in between uses. Additionally, extra porters (janitors) have been hired to conduct deep cleaning on First Shift (late night/early morning). Posters and information regarding handwashing and COVID 19 protocols are hung up all over the facility and the incarcerated population is encouraged to follow these protocols.

**Testing:** No incarcerated individuals or staff have tested positive for COVID 19 at WCC.

**Social Distancing:** Social Distancing is a primary focus and is regularly being encouraged and reminded. Dayrooms have been limited to 10 individuals at a time. All education classrooms, medical areas, etc., have been limited to smaller groups at a time and expansion of extra sessions for those areas will be added as necessary. Work areas are being restructured to ensure proper spacing is achieved. Meals are being served in-unit to both achieve social distancing and to increase recreation opportunities for the population. The incarcerated population are encouraging importance of social distancing and they are educating each other of the importance of it.

**Extra Unit and Recreational Activities:** We have set up numerous extra activities in the units to help with the anxiety that many are feeling at this time. There are many new ideas and changes happening every day. Some of the opportunities include:

- ✓ Popcorn machines in TC units on a schedule that provides this treat three to four days a week on a rotating basis.
- ✓ Dayroom time in the reception units.
- ✓ Extra playing cards in all units.
- ✓ Printable Crosswords/Sudoku/Word Search for all incarcerated individuals.
- ✓ Organized pickle ball tournament
- ✓ Creating a plan to open the unit mounds for the TC population.
- ✓ Eligible TC individuals have been issued their incentive gardens.
- ✓ Started night yards early.
- ✓ Movies will be made available on a rotating basis

Some of these activities are just ramping up and will expand as possible. As stated, we will continue to explore other new opportunities for recreation and activities.

**Screening:** No visitors or volunteers are being allowed to come in. Staff must complete an enhanced screening process, including temperature checks, prior to the start of their shifts. Due to this process, a significant number of staff are being sent home and cannot return until they are cleared by a medical screening team that is separate from WCC. Our number one priority is to keeping staff and the population safe.

If any of the Incarcerated Individuals show signs of having symptoms, they are screened by medical staff using the following protocol:

Quarantine and Isolation - Incarcerated individuals (patients) will be placed on isolation status when they are presenting influenza or COVID-19 like illness symptoms. Patients who have been exposed (i.e., cellmate of a patient who has influenza-like symptoms) will be placed on quarantine status. Universal precautions will be in effect for all patients. Special housing arrangements will be made for patients on quarantine and isolation status. Droplet precautions will also be in effect, and information will be posted on the red flu supply carts located in R5 and IMU.

All potentially exposed cells are sanitized, and the individuals are provided clean linens. Individuals who do not have their own hygiene items, or run out, will be provided some at no cost. Finally, medical callouts have been increased to every half hour to reduce the number of people in medical.

**Transports:** All individuals are being temperature checked when picked up from other DOC facilities. All individuals arriving at and departing from WCC are temperature checked at Receiving. Anyone with a temperature receives a secondary evaluation by medical and the isolation/quarantine protocol is followed as necessary.

#### Round Table Questions:

1. Will the population be provided hand sanitizer?
  - a. **Answer:** Not at this time, no facility is providing incarcerated individuals with hand sanitizer. Per CDC guidance, handwashing is the best option for everyone in preventing the spread of this (COVID-19) and other disease. The population will continue to be encouraged to do so.
2. How many incarcerated individuals have been tested?
  - a. **Answer:** 15 total- 6 are negative and 9 are still pending test results.
3. What is the cleaning solution you have that kills COVID 19?
  - a. **Answer:** This solution is provided from our vendor PortionPac via Correctional Industries. The attached document states that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists the product as effective:  
  
info-bulletin  
CP205.pdf
4. Does the incarcerated population have access to personal protection equipment (PPE)?
  - a. **Answer:** If they exhibit symptoms or are transferred here and appear symptomatic, they are provided the proper PPE to keep everyone safe. Specifically, the symptomatic individual is the one who wears a mask, not the health individuals. Again, these individuals are kept separate from the rest of the population.
5. What are you doing to keep the vulnerable population safe?
  - a. **Answer:** We are monitoring them closely, however, they are still here and they haven't been moved anywhere. There may be more information regarding at risk populations coming in the near future.
6. Do medical staff get PPE priority?
  - a. **Answer:** Yes, all medical staff get the proper PPE as first responders. All first responders, including custody staff, have the proper PPE.
7. Why is the bathroom in the gym closed? Why are some of the phones turned off?
  - a. **Answer:** The bathroom in the TC (upper campus) gymnasium is not used due to the high volume of fights and serious assaults that have happened in that area, and the inability of staff to monitor activity in that area. As a solution to this issue, dispensers of waterless hand cleaner will be installed at the doorways of that gymnasium.

- b. As far as the phones, we had to create the proper social distancing protocols and some phones are too close together so we had to take some of them offline to promote social distancing and safety for the population. We are also looking into making physical barriers between the phones so that we could perhaps open up the inactivated phones again. More to come on that...
8. Would it be possible for us to do no-contact visiting in the booths?
- a. **Answer:** This is a statewide issue. Every facility is different regarding number and location of booths. Some facilities won't be able to accommodate that and any decision regarding visiting has to be a statewide decision that is fair to all.
9. Why are some workers being turned away from work because staff don't want to be exposed? Especially, the laundry truck and garbage truck.
- a. **Answer:** There is a very high number of our maintenance staff that are out due to not passing the enhanced screening process. Regarding the Laundry and Garbage truck, it is due to social distancing protocols. These may be further revised as we move forward, but no one will be unemployed because of this decision.
10. Will the workers get paid even though they can't show up to work, as it is being done on the outside?
- a. **Answer:** Update - HQ has approved pay in these cases. The conditions and limits will be made available to the population soon.
  - b. WCC does and will not let anyone go without personal hygiene products due to their inability to pay. We will assure everyone has the proper hygiene items.
11. Are you concerned that some of the laundry comes from WCCW?
- a. **Answer:** There are no current concerns or changes planned regarding this issue. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines for all material handling and sanitation, including laundry.
12. What is the process of J-pay pictures being sent and/or received?
- a. **Answer:** Follow-up - The mailroom Sergeant reports that one he reviews and approves J-Pay items at 5:30 am and 12:00 pm every day. While policy allows for seven days to review these items, he is completing his reviews within a day of receipt. If there are specific incidents of delay that can be provided to us, we will review the complaint and address as necessary.
  - b. Cedar: Has two (2) J-Pay kiosks. One is having intermittent issues and J-Pay has been notified.
  - c. Evergreen and R6: Have one (1) kiosk each.
13. How long is the free video visit?
- a. **Answer:** The video visit is 30 minutes long
14. J-pay scheduling seems to be scheduled out until May, is that a glitch?
- a. **Answer:** The mailroom Sergeant will contact J-Pay.
15. How are you promoting social distancing with 3 people to a cell?
- a. **Answer:** We are maintaining and promoting social distancing wherever and whenever possible. We are encouraging the population to practice cleaning and social distancing and encouraging them to assure they practice self-hygiene. We all have to face the reality that there are some situations in an incarceration setting where social distancing cannot be met, such as in-cell time. We are currently dealing with overcrowding in the Reception Center that has resulted in some cells housing three individuals. There are several teams working on expediting the

classification process and moving individuals to parent facilities as quickly as possible.

16. Will lotion be available since they are increasing handwashing?

- a. **Answer:** We will take this into consideration. The TC units can purchase lotion from the commissary, but we haven't issued any as of yet.

**Schedule for next call-in- We will schedule it and let you know when it will be. If you have suggestions on when will work, please email Dean Mason or Jenn Bullard.**