

Local Family Council COVID-19 Teleconference

Washington Corrections Center

April, 23, 2020

1pm

Facilitator: Dan White, Superintendent

Attendance: Dan White, Dean Mason, Michael Green, Karin Arnold, Justin Schlagel, Gerald Bailey, Jenn Bullard, Naomi Samson (Meeting Minutes), Penny Marquart (Meeting Minutes).

Attendance Via phone: Mathias Gyde, Paige Perkinson, Norm Goodenough, Jasmine Caldwell, Joanna Carns, Amy Grubaugh, Candace Krueger, Jacki Racus, Kaishanna Sauders, Dora Williams.

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 continue to be implemented and improved. 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 approved 11 new cleaning positions to clean and deep clean high

traffic areas such as the showers, phones, equipment and dayrooms in between uses. [This was delayed due to staffing, but is once again being ramped up.] 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. A specific staff is designated to ensure that all new information is widely communicated throughout the facility.

Rapid Reentry - Governor Inslee's proclamation regarding emergency commutation was released on April 15th, followed by additional Rapid Reentry messaging released by DOC the following day. Since that time, a number of WCC staff have been working every day (including weekends) to process every individual approved for one of these options.

Face Coverings (Masks) – On April 17th, every incarcerated individual was issued a kit that included two bandanas with materials and instructions for making a mask. On April 20th every incarcerated individual was issued a sewn face mask made by the WCC Sustainable Practices Lab (SPL). All incarcerated individuals are required to wear an authorized face covering whenever they come out of their cell.

Staff are required to wear face covering whenever they are in the facility.

Telephones - WCC Maintenance is almost completed installing thick plastic (Lexan) screens between telephones in units, yards and gyms to enable access to most available telephones while shielding individuals using the phones from each other. Nearly every telephone that was available prior to social distancing orders is again available.

Testing: No incarcerated individuals have tested positive for COVID 19 at WCC. Two WCC staff did test positive for COVID-19 nearly three weeks ago. All protocols were followed regarding mapping of potential exposure for both staff and the incarcerated population. Both staff were quarantined from work, screened and returned to work after clearance by medical staff. There are currently eight incarcerated individuals on quarantine and nine on isolation for “flu-like symptoms.” Forty-seven (47) incarcerated individuals have been tested for COVI-19 since the beginning of our response to this virus. Five tests are still pending results and all tests have been negative to this point.

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 Training Center (TC) general population units on a schedule that

provides this treat three to four days a week on a rotating basis. Currently unavailable due to shortage of product. This will be reinstated when available.

Dayroom time in the reception units.

Extra playing cards in all units.

Printable Crosswords/Sudoku/Word Search for all incarcerated individuals. Packets have been going out prior to each weekend and have been very popular.

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 are currently available to the TC population. The movies are rotated daily based on a list prioritized by the tier representative. The system that we built is limited in function and we are doing the best we can to keep the movies fresh within our current resources. We receive a few complaints from the population, but most are understanding and appreciate the efforts of staff.

These activities will expand whenever 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 are being screened as per CDC Guidelines. Staff must complete an enhanced screening process, including temperature checks, prior to the start of their shifts. 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.

Face Masks: Each offender was given 2 face coverings (Face covering kit). Additional face masks are being made by Sustainable Practices. These masks are being made from donated material. Each incarcerated individual will be given one of these masks to go with the two they already have.

Phones: The maintenance team is installing separation between all phones with Lexan Sheets. This will allow the use of each phone instead of every other one.

Round Table Questions:

1. **Question:** why they can't do laundry more than once a week.
 - a. **Answer:** We do Laundry for multiple facilities. It is a matter of availability.
2. **Question:** Testing updates are:
 - a. **Answer:** total- 47 Are negative and 5 are still pending test results. There are 9 in isolation and 8 on quarantine.
3. **Question:** Are you trying to get nonalcoholic hand sanitizer?
 - a. **Answer:** Within 5 hours of deployment we had 3 Individuals consume this. So the decision was made at Headquarters to remove it. Non-alcohol sanitizer is not available to use. We are using soap.
4. **Question:** Can I get the demographics for me?
 - a. **Answer:** Request from HQ
5. **Question:** Video visits for J-Pay, are they getting shutting down at 8:20, lots of disconnects and not able to get full visit. Have you contacted JPay?
 - a. **Answer:** Yes, we have frequent contact with JPay and will look into disconnects.
6. **Question:** Testing, how many tests were ordered?
 - a. **Answer:** 50, then 50 more came yesterday
7. **Question:** How many guys are you getting that are then leaving a couple days later?
 - a. **Answer:** We are really not getting those right now.
8. **Question:** what is current number of floor sleepers?
 - a. **Answer:** As of last night 102. 38 of those left today.
9. **Question:** ISO Mental health concerns, what are you doing for that?
 - a. **Answer:** There is great staff here and our mental health team makes rounds here and they do check in.

Schedule for next call-in: 1:00 pm on April 30, 2020
Call-in information will be provided in a forthcoming calendar invite.