

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WCC Shelton

Date and Time: 12-3-2020 1pm

Attendees

Dan White – Superintendent
Dean Mason – Associate Superintendent
Justin Schlager – Corrections Program Manager
Penny Marquart – AA3 to Associate Dean Mason
Mike Eby – Community Correctional Specialist
Matthias Gyde – Community Correctional Specialist.
Paige Perkinson – Program Specialist
Norm Goodenough – Health Services Manager
Laquesha (Q) Turner – Community Relations
Portia Linear – Statewide LFC Representative for WCC
Kaishanna Saunders – Secretary
Jacki Racus - Co-Chair
Kristina Olsen
Jasmine Bernardez
Candace Krueger
Dora Williams
Amy Grubaugh
Wendy Schindler
Emijah Smith
Kayla Shepard.

Weekly Update

- We know that you are concerned about your loved ones. Information is changing rapidly. Last week (11/22-11/28) we started to get positive cases in the general population in R6. This included just about every kitchen and laundry worker.
- In the beginning of the week, we sent in 900 tests. We received 300 back as positive. We expect the bulk of the tests to come in tomorrow (12/4).
- We tested the bulk of the population in Cedar Hall on Friday (11/27). All of Cedar Hall is on quarantine.
- We re-tested R6 and some in Cedar Hall and we will again re-test on Monday (12/7).
- We have tested Evergreen Hall, and out of caution we have quarantined all of Evergreen.
- We are running out of room for quarantine, so we have temporarily set up a living area in the gym.
- There are currently 7 in the Regional Care Facility (RCF).
- There are no incarcerated individuals working in the Kitchen or Laundry. Both are being run by CI (Correctional Industries) staff and volunteers.

Pre-Submitted Questions – Answers throughout

Question 1

Bernardez: A. Why hasn't DOC shown as much concern for their staff as much as the visitors when it comes to bringing people in and out of the facility? Visits were closed due to the possibility of visitors potentially bringing in the virus and infecting our loved ones, however your staff can come and go as they please without knowing what they have been doing in their personally lives and coming back to work as if there is not a whole virus going on.

B. Why wouldn't DOC expect their staff to be on quarantine when not working? I can't speak for everyone else but I've been on quarantine for the last 8 months. I get it people have lives, but if DOC was so concerned about our loved ones why wasn't something in place to prevent the current circumstances? It's not fair we can't visit but your staff is able to come and infect our family.

C. When are the staff getting tested and how long is it taking the test results to come back.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason- We can't mandate what our staff can and cannot do. We do ask that they follow the guidelines.

Staff is tested weekly and we do mapping. If they test positive, they are removed immediately. Our staff positive rate is pretty low.

Question 2

Racus: Can someone please check into the food that is being served to the offenders in Cedar unit? It is cold and the offenders understandably aren't allowed to use the microwave to heat it up if it's not their scheduled time to be out of their cell. The last thing that needs to happen is for the offenders to get food poisoning from the food not being up to temperature.

Krueger: I also have concerns with the food being served cold and also being served bologna on Thanksgiving? Isn't Thanksgiving taken care of out of a separate account, this is not acceptable.

Is it true that they are not allowed showers for 7 days? It seems the guys are getting different information every day.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason

Thanksgiving Meal: Holiday meals are served at lunch time. Diner was a boat and yes, it was sandwich meat.

Cold food: We check on that daily. Temperatures of the food carts are checked and recorded daily. We address any issues as quickly as possible.

Additional Answer: WCC Food Manager Bernice Blowers

All hot food served is brought up to temperature with the minimum internal temp being 165 degrees. Food is then loaded into hot carts, temperature of cart at time of loading is recorded on the Hazard Analysis Critical Control points document, along with the temperature of the hot food items, and the time cart is loaded. This form also contains information for the unit to serve the food by a certain time, this is the time temperature control, as required by the Food Safety WCC. This rule is also referred to as the 4 hour rule. Food is delivered to the unit. Staff are informed, the time is then recorded of when the meal of severed. All hot food leaves Food Service at or above the serving temperature of 135 degrees.

Thanksgiving Day lunch meal consisted of the traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Dinner was a cold tray meal containing a turkey ham sandwich, PB&J sandwich, ships, muffin, fruit, fresh vegetable and drink mix as outlined by the Holiday Meal plan.

Question 3

Krueger: The other issue is with R6, being deadlocked all day without emergency buttons. Guys are banging on the doors and flashing lights (which is what they were told to do) and get no response from staff. I am very concerned about the health and wellbeing of our loved ones on top of dealing with a virus.

Question 4

Olson: My husband is located in Cedar Hall. I received a JPay message indicating that he was just told they could only use the restroom on the 30-minute break outside the cell. Is there any way you can speak to the correctional officers in Cedar Hall to coordinate times for them to use the restroom?

Grubaugh: I also have been told the bathroom breaks are not being granted. How is the bathroom schedule working for our LO's? How often are they getting out to go?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – They have 30 minute shower and bathroom breaks. We have 15 blocked out times during the day for people to use the bathroom. There are signs posted everywhere.

Question 5

Schindler: I thought at an earlier meeting we were told our loved one would be able to take their tablet with them if they were put in isolation. If they truly can't, can there be some way the family can be notified rather than logging onto JPay discovering no email access is available with no explanation?

How long does someone have to be in isolation and the procedure to return back to their unit?

Question 6

Grubaugh: I was wondering where the people are going to go if they are tested positive from the Cedar Hall unit. And what will happen to the rest of the people that are negative?

Emailed answered pre-submitted questions before teleconference

Racus: I would like to have the issue of COs not wearing their masks at all times to this Thursday's agenda. With what was announced in Cedar Living Unit Friday, I think it's imperative that COs are expected to wear their masks at all times, no exceptions, just like the offenders. I personally witnessed a CO walking past while my husband and I were on a video visit with no mask on. For the offenders not in the lower R's, the only way they are being exposed and being put at risk are the staff and the offenders are the people that are being made to quarantine and move. It is out of their control, but the staff can control not putting our loved ones at risk.

I checked with my husband and we are pretty certain it was during our video visit on 11/22 from 6:30-7pm. We've had a couple of visits in the last week, so I hope that is the correct visit. I believe the sergeant and CO walked behind my husband 10-15 minutes into the visit. The CO was Mr. Miller. My husband said that CO Miller usually wears his mask but that when the COs are in the booth, they don't wear their masks and when an offender walks up to the booth, the CO in the booth doesn't usually pull their mask up to talk to them through the opening in the booth.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Dean Mason

We reviewed the cameras for the timeframe you provided. The Sergeant and the Officer did walk by the JPAY kiosk as you relayed. The Officer did have a face covering on, but did have it pulled down on his chin. We will address this with the Officer and will continue to remind staff of the requirement to wear face coverings appropriately.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Lanier: I would like to ask that we as families get an update to what is transpiring asap. Our next covid Teleconference is not until Thursday and some of us are very anxious to get updates. So far I was told by my husband a AC kitchen staff tested positive on Wednesday. I believe it was explained to the men inside that a sergeant made the call to keep the other staff working because they did not have enough CI staff to serve Thanksgiving which prolonged exposure to other inmates. I believe that was a bad call deciding to let 2 days lapse or pass before making a call to lock down the entire facility.

Can we please get an email update on:

1. Who staff/inmate that tested positive a number
- 2 who all exposed are now symptomatic
- 3 who are all being isolated/quarantined?
- 4 Number of how many will now be tested due to exposure

Please keep in mind when I ask who I'm not looking for individual names, but more so looking at it from a unit/tier standpoint.

One last thing can we get a breakdown of how the serial testing goes for those being quarantined. Is that a headquarters call/decision or facility based.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason

The facility staff are working endless hours to appropriately respond to the COVID-19 outbreak that we are currently experiencing in the Washington Corrections Center. We will hold our regularly scheduled call this week on Thursday, December 3, 2020, and will be able to provide a facility update, answer pre-submitted questions, and as time allows, answer additional questions loved ones may have.

In response to your other questions:

- *In regards to any staff member testing positive, the COVID-19 mapping process begins immediately once a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis is received. Staff identified through the close-contact mapping process are immediately screened out until proper return to work protocols have been completed.*
- *The DOC COVID-19 website is being updated each business day with the numbers pertaining to positive staff and incarcerated individuals in all facilities. The department cannot release the identity or identifying information of any of these individuals.*
- *The facility is following the Washington State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing and Infection Control Guideline Version 22 when it pertains to placing individuals on medical isolation or quarantine status.*
- *The testing information will be shared on the phone call we will be holding on Thursday of this coming week.*

We understand that this time is hard and there is a high level of concern. We ask that you continue to send to the facility any information that you receive pertaining to items that we as a facility can follow up on to ensure the health and safety of the incarcerated population, and otherwise, please wait for the regularly scheduled phone call that we will continue to hold to inform families and loved ones of the incarcerated within our facility.

>>>>Lanier ADDED to her question

I would like to know again NOT individuals but I'm asking what units are placed in quarantine. Even on the website it does not tell the public what units. So again sir what units have been placed on quarantine. When I called Saturday evening I was told the entire prison was place on quarantine. Is this true? 2hat units if entire units on isolation what units are in isolation. We should be able to hear from our loved ones correct?

Additional Questions

Question 1

Racus: Cedar Hall was given boxes and told to pack up all their belongings?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We wanted to be ahead of the game, just in case we needed move people. It makes more sense to leave them and quarantine the whole unit.

Question 2

Smith: Has everyone been asked to box up?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason- The plan was to have everyone box up just in case we needed to move people. Isolations in this case, are medical isolations. They won't be able to bring the bulk of their property. They can bring their hygiene and Jpays.

Question 3

Unknown: How are our loved ones told about their tests results?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – They are told by medical staff.

Additional Answer- Heath Services Manager Goodenough – We are working on the notification process. When we tell someone they are moving to isolation we tell them and why.

Additional Answer via email: Associate Superintendent Mason-

- Test Result Notifications: The Medical staff have worked out a better system for notifying each individual of their test results. Please be aware that it may take a day or two for them to implement the change.

Question 4

Q: Did you say that the positive test results are around 300?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Dean Mason – Yes, that is correct.

Question 5

Q: How do you decide who goes to the RCF?

Answer: Heath Services Manager Goodenough – Depends, it is the most symptomatic and the sickest.

Additional Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We want to take care of the sickest. No one in there is extremely sick.

Question 6

Unknown: Is everyone in isolation positive?

Answer: Heath Services Manager Goodenough – Those that are non-positive in isolation are in a cell alone. Individuals that are positive, can be isolated with other positive individuals.

Question 7

Unknown: My son has a c-pap. Will he be getting a new filter?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason– We are looking to move COVID free individuals. We are getting air purifiers and we will move them into another cell.

Question 8

Racus: My husband was told that they could not have their Jplayer. Some are saying, that they don't have their jplayers.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason– That is information that I was not aware of. If they have their jplayers and can't link-up to Wi-Fi because of the bad Wi-Fi connections where they are, they won't get email.

Question 9

Smith: How long is isolation when they are COVID positive? Are those 50 and older treated differently?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – They are in isolation 14 days. But it also depends on their medical needs. We don't treat 50 and older differently.

Question 10

Smith: Where do they go after 14 days?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We are asking that ourselves. They have to be cleared by medical.

Question 11

Smith: If you have X amount in Cedar Hall and 300 test positive and they are housed together: for instance, if there are two in a cell and one tests positive and the other doesn't get their test results back.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – Our plan is to move them by the end of the day. We aren't trying to keep the positive and non-positive together. We are getting people moved as quickly as possible. .

Question 12

Smith: R6 says that they could not bring their hygiene items.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – If they don't have their hygiene, we will make sure they get them.

Additional Answer via email: Associate Superintendent Mason-

- Hygiene: I did find that an unapproved change was made to our rules regarding allowed property for general population individuals being placed on quarantine or isolation in a non-general population unit. I directed that staff provide them their hygiene items from their property.

Question 13

Unknown: Husband says they are locked in their cells and not getting bathroom breaks.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – They are allowed out of their cell, but they are not allowed off their tier.

Additional answer: CPM Schlagel – they have 30 minute shower and bathroom breaks. We have 15 blocked out times during the day, for people to use the bathroom. There are signs posted everywhere.

Additional Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We are working on getting a rolling phone cart. But we are a week or two out on that.

Additional answer via email: Associate Superintendent Mason -

- Cedar Hall cell doors being double-locked: After discussion with staff, we found that many of the men were not following directives from staff to remain in their cells unless being given permission to come out. Staff were attempting to have all of the men pack up their property. This directive was understandably unsettling for them and we understand the confusion and natural need to obtain more information that this probably created. We need to maintain order, especially in this current situation, and keep people separated. The onsite supervisor of the pack-up process made the decision to lock the doors. That decision should have been cleared with Incident Command, which is why we were not immediately aware. **The doors have been unlocked, but the men need to take the quarantine rules seriously so that we can keep everyone safe. We will continue to work with our staff to find the best methods for operating the unit in a safe and secure manner, and to communicate with the men so that they are as informed as possible regarding rules and changes.**

Question 14

Unknown: I just received a message from my loved one who says they been locked into their cells.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – I will check with CPM Schlagel to see what's going in that unit.

UNDATE Answer: CPM Schlagel – I just called the unit, and they are running bathroom breaks.

Question 15

Unknown: What about staff? They get to go home. How is that being handled?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We can't mandate what our staff can and cannot do. We do ask, that they follow the guidelines.

Staff is tested weekly and we do mapping. If they test positive, they are removed immediately. Our staff positive rate is pretty low.

Question 16

Bernardez: My husband says, not everyone is getting their temperature checked, why?

Answer: Heath Services Manager Goodenough – We check those who have tested positive.

Question 17

Bernardez: The tests that are out; when will those tests come back? How long?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We are short on nursing staff. They are spread pretty thin across the facility.

Question 18

Unknown: if we were not on this call, how would you know any of these things?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – I assure you, we would know.

Question 19

Unknown: Who is cleaning the units now that the cleaners are all quarantined?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We have some cleaners that are able to come out of their cells and clean. Staff is handing out cleaning supplies.

Question 20

Unknown: Can we get an update before next week's meeting?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – Yes, we can send out an update.

Question 21

Kruger: I was told R6 packages were returned and they are not going to get them.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – I will check with the mail room. They should be getting their packages.

Additional answer via email: Associate Superintendent Mason-

- Packages: I contacted the mailroom and they are not aware of any packages that were sent back to the vendor. I have instructed them to secure and hold all approved packages for the general population until they are released from Isolation or Quarantine status.

Comments/Closing

- Cedar Hall Positive Cases: The actual positive results are fewer so far than was expected and reported today (12/3/2020). Please keep in mind that we still have approximately 600 tests facility wide that have yet to be returned. That said, the decision was made to move sixty (60) individuals in Cedar who have tested positive to the temporary living unit (TC Gym). Those moves are occurring this evening.

We will be reinstating our *WEEKLY* LFC COVID Check-ins. Next LFC COVID Teleconference Check-in will be Thursday, December 10th at 1pm. We will still be holding our Bi-Monthly LFC Teleconference as scheduled, for December 17th at 1pm.

Superintendent White: I just want to make you aware, effective today (12/3/2020) I am at Headquarters. Associate Superintendent Dean Mason is acting Superintendent.

Update after teleconference

- Cedar Hall cell doors being double-locked: After discussion with staff, we found that many of the men were not following directives from staff to remain in their cells unless being given permission to come out. Staff were attempting to have all of the men pack up their property. This directive was understandably unsettling for them and we understand the confusion and natural need to obtain more information that this probably created. We need to maintain order, especially in this current situation, and keep people separated. The onsite supervisor of the pack-up process made the decision to lock the doors. That decision should have been cleared with Incident Command, which is why we were not immediately aware. **The doors have been unlocked, but the men need to take the quarantine rules seriously so that we can keep everyone safe. We will continue to work with our staff to find the best methods for operating the unit in a safe and secure manner, and to communicate with the men so that they are as informed as possible regarding rules and changes.**
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- Test Result Notifications: The Medical staff have worked out a better system for notifying each individual of their test results. Please be aware that it may take a day or two for them to implement the change.
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As I said during the call, this is a very fluid situation and we are adjusting our response as events unfold. Our primary goal remains the health and safety of everyone at WCC.

If you are going to reply all, I ask that you contain your comments/questions to this topic of communication only. It would be helpful if everyone could copy the e-mail addresses above to a "nick list" and start any new discussions in a fresh e-mail going forward. Many of the discussions have been added on to older e-mails and my concern is that they get so lengthy that your comments/questions will get overlooked.

Thank you,

Dean Mason, Associate Superintendent