

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WCC Shelton

Date and Time: 12/10/2020 1pm

Attendees

Dan White – Superintendent
Dean Mason – Associate Superintendent
Justin Schlagel – Corrections Program Manager
Karin Arnold – Corrections Program Manager
Penny Marquart – AA3 to Associate Dean Mason
Mike Eby – Community Correctional Specialist
Matthias Gyde – Community Correctional Specialist.
Joanna Carns – Ombuds Director
Norm Goodenough – Health Services Manager
Gerald Bailey – Correctional Unit Supervisor-Cedar Hall
Kaishanna Saunders – Secretary
Jacki Racus - Co-Chair
Jasmine Bernardez
Candace Krueger
Dora Williams
Amy Grubaugh
Wendy Schindler
Emijah Smith
Kayla Shepard
Helen Russell

Weekly Update

- 343 Isolation
- 318 positive
- 1039 Quarantine
- 119 Intake separation
- 74 Recovered

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Racus: Can I please get an update on the offenders with CPAP machines? I heard from my husband after 5pm and they still didn't have their filters or machines. I know you were waiting for them to be delivered by Amazon, so hopefully if they are delivered this evening. The offenders will be set up and have their machines to be able to sleep better tonight.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason - We have made accommodations as long as they are in quarantine, they can have it. If in isolation, they are moved to a negative pressure room.

Question 2

Racus: I just heard from my husband and he is saying that the offender's Wi-Fi has been shut off in Cedar Unit. Can someone please check into it? With limited phone time, the only way our loved ones can communicate with us is through their J-PAY and they need their Wi-Fi.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason - The report is that the WIFI is fading in and out, not shut off. I am copying our staff liaison who will contact J-Pay first thing in the morning. We have not heard back from J-PAY.

Question 3

Grubaugh: I am wondering when the email access is going to be restored to our loved ones? As of this morning it doesn't even give you the option to send a message. Many families are asking why this happened and when will it be fixed.

I'm sorry, I should have mentioned, this is for our loved ones that was moved to the gym. How about the emails?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason - We had issues with those who move to the gym and we are still having issues with J-PAY in the gym and the R units. The R units were never set up with the ability to use J-PAY.

Question 4

Racus: I just received a call from my husband in Cedar Unit and the phones are not working properly. I could hear him, but he could hear very little of what I was saying. He said that it has been going on for a while today and the offenders are understandably frustrated. Has this been reported and is it being worked on?

Answer Associate Superintendent Dean Mason.

This is the first report of this that we have heard. I have passed it on to our telephone liaison.

***UPDATE: Associate Superintendent Mason** - We are working with JPAY to resolve issues related to housing assignments. We had to change the housing assignment for all individuals currently residing in the alternate housing unit (G-unit/TC Gym). This change was necessary to allow for other critical housing assignment changes in the regular units. We believed that we could do so without an impact to JPAY services in G-unit, but discovered that JPAY will need to update their system. It is expected that this may not occur for 2-3 days. I apologize for the additional inconvenience, but this action was necessary to maintaining safe and secure operations in all of the units. We will correct the problem as quickly as possible.

Question 5

Lanier - I was contacted by an individual still in cedar unit. He explained to me that all the men who remained in cedar have now been rounded up and placed on one tier. He said, that these cells had not been cleaned or sanitized. My question is why would they not clean and sanitize these areas prior to relocating men whom are negative for COVID-19. And could the proper supplies be given to these men so at least they have the opportunity to clean and sanitize these new areas themselves.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason - Thank you for bringing your concerns forward.

The facility ensured that all cells any individuals were moved into, were cleaned appropriately by Emergency Response Teams. This is why, as you note, individuals were moved into the yard area in small cohorts, for teams to ensure the cells were cleaned. We hope this information alleviated some of your concerns. Thank you again for bringing these to the Department's attention.

***UPDATE:** We have verified that they were being cleaned and sanitized and that cleaning supplies were being supplied.

Question 6

Schindler – When will the people using CPAPs in the negative air-flow isolation, be able to have at least 1 phone call or an email to their family? My last contact was 11/27/2020. Casey in medical has been wonderful and emailed me immediately back twice. But I still have had not had any personal contact with my son.

Are they receiving their mail in isolation? Can they mail letters? Is there anything for them to do during the day besides stare at the 4 walls? What is being done for their mental health? How long do they need to stay in isolation? When will the phone on a cart be available and will people in isolation be able to use them?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – The mailroom was mapped out and it will get caught up. They are getting activity packets and Jpay players. They don't have access to use the phone. Rolling phone carts are being made. We hope they will be done the middle of next week. We are also working on getting 4 to 5 more phone installed and we have 6 portable phones. We are working on getting a phone schedule set up so everyone will be able to call every day.

Question 7

Grubaugh – There are a lot of the guys that are very concerned about losing their housing assignments that they had and most importantly, they don't want to lose their cellmates. They already feel like they are being punished for having the virus. Also, after they return to the unit, how quickly will they receive their property back?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We want to make it clear that health and safety are our primary concern. We are transitioning back, but we don't know if they will get their original housing or celli. Once they get back, we will work to get their property back that day.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Bernardez – Why are packages being delayed?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – Space is limited. To help decrease the chance of packages being lost or stolen. We are holding packages until everyone is moved back to a non-isolation cell.

Question 2

Krueger – Why can't they send hobby items home?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – Please understand, some services are overlapping. Staff is working as quickly as possible and we are short staffed.

Question 3

Krueger – Are porters being paid?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – We will look into this.

Williams, comment – thank you for all you are doing. We are hearing good things.

Question 4

Williams – Why is it that they are able to work in the kitchen and not go to Rec or yard?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We are looking at this. R6 was the first to be cleared. We have to modify the schedule. Our gyms are both being used as temp housing. We are defiantly looking at getting them outside.

Question 5

Williams – is there any documentation given to those who tested positive?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – Yes, medical has worked on that and should only be a day or two that they receive results.

Grubaugh, comment – My son has said a few times, that the COs are going above and beyond. They are giving all they can. Thank you, my son thanks you.

Question 6

Grubaugh – They were able to order a small commissar, when will they receive this? There was a small list to choose from.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – Yes, they should receive this Friday. There are other facilities going through an outbreaks as well. But this should not affect delivery.

Question 7

Schindler – What is the criteria to get off isolation?

Answer: Health Services Manager Goodenough – We monitor. Each situation is unique. It depends on how the patients is affected by the virus.

Question 8

Smith – What are Cedars numbers?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – I don't know the numbers that came out of Cedar.

Question 9

Smith – How many staff?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We have had 48 staff members test positive, and that is going back to March. General Rule, it's a 14 day minimum quarantine and two negative tests.

Question 10

Williams – do you know the time frame between tests?

Answer: Health Services Manager Goodenough – 48 hour intervals between tests.

Comments/Closing

Associate Superintendent Mason - We will be doing mass testing Monday. Each person will receive two tests.

Ombuds Director, Carns – I want to eco the thank you. It makes me so happy with the level of communication.

Superintendent White – I appreciate the family's patience with this. Thank you Joanna for your kind words.

Our Bi-Monthly LFC Teleconference will be held Thursday, December 17th at 1pm. As always, please submit questions to Penny and she will get them on the agenda.

Our next LFC COVID Teleconference will be **Wednesday, December 23rd**.
