

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WCC Shelton

Date and Time: 12/30/2020 1pm

Attendees

Dan White – Superintendent
Dean Mason – Associate Superintendent
Justin Schlagel – Corrections Program Manager
Penny Marquart – AA3 to Associate Dean Mason
Mike Eby – Community Correctional Specialist
Domenica Campbell – Early Resolution Ombuds
Paige Perkinson – Program Specialist
Casey Carlson – Health Services Manager
Heidi Sheridan – Correctional Unit Supervisor-Evergreen Hall
Gerald Bailey – Correctional Unit Supervisor-Cedar Hall
Kaishanna Saunders – Secretary
Jacki Racus - Co-Chair
Candace Krueger
Amy Grubaugh

Weekly Update

- 169 Isolation
- 714 positive
- 1132 Quarantine
- 143 Active
- 550 Recovered
- 497 Pending tests
- 115 Floor Sleepers

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Racus: The phones consistently went down this weekend in Cedar Unit and when they did work, they were hard to hear and sometimes garbled. Can we please get them looked at and an update?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – GTL has been out looking. We are also looking at replacing some of the handsets. Cleaner is being sprayed directly into the phone and that is causing damage.

Additional Question: Could a sign be put up to remind them not to spray cleaner directly into the phone?

Answer: CUS Bailey – I will make sure we do.

Racus: Can we get an update of when the offenders can expect to be able to go out to yard again? For a lot of them, it's been 6 weeks since they have been able to go out and get fresh air or exercise and it would really help with morale.

Related question- Krueger: Why are the guys in R6 allowed to work but not allowed yard?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason- We don't disagree with this at all. We need the unit fully recovered. The unit as a whole, needs to test negative twice. We know this is difficult to understand, but it is driven by medical. Our goal is to get everyone out as soon as possible.

Question 2

Krueger: Can you change R6 back to their unit, so we can resume video visits now that the two free visits were extended?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – The two free video visits have been turned back on. I think we are good in Cedar, R6 G&H.

Question 3

Krueger: Why are the guys that are repeatedly testing negative still being housed with guys that have tested positive?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We sent out messaging. They can be housed with anyone if they tested positive at any time. They are considered recovered.

Question 4

Saunders: There was a memo released by DOC about vaccines being given out to inmates and CO's. Will this be mandatory for all your officers? As they are the ones mainly going and coming into the facility on a day to day basis? If so, when will you all start this process?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – We started vaccines for our front line staff this morning. We cannot force anyone to take the vaccine.

Saunders: Last weekend for hours at a time, the phones were down all throughout the day. When the phones would turn back on, the lines were extremely long and in the middle of conversations, on their end of the phone, it would just disconnect. Has this issue been resolved?

Are there any options of adding more phones into the units to avoid standing in longer than normal lines for 30 plus minutes?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – No. We have maxed out the number of lines that we can have. But, GTL is exploring every option.

Saunders: I mailed my husband a Christmas greeting card that was rejected on 12/22 due to Glitter! It must've slipped my mind that glitter is "inappropriate/not allowed" in a prison or that I have to be picky when buying cards. But can someone explain to me what the logic behind this is? It's the holidays and we already have limited communication. He could've at minimum received maybe a photo copy of the inside of the card as there was only glitter on just the front or is that something out of their scope they aren't allowed to do?

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – Glitter is one of those things that can't be identified as just glitter. It can be mixed with other things. Photo copy; we only have so many staff members and we would like to get the mail out to your loved one as soon as possible.

Saunders; I was told we are able to schedule video visits now. So I went online to schedule, and my husband told me last night, that it's automatically scheduling the visits on a kiosk 003 that is not even located in their unit (Cedar), but is elsewhere. Can this be looked into or corrected ASAP so we don't miss our visits due to facility complications? How will we be notified this has been amended?

Answer Associate Superintendent Dean Mason – I did forward it to Jpay. We will get this fixed as quickly as possible.

Question 5

Monaghan -. My husband has had 6 negative tests and still not back to his unit and being house with positive cases. A few been moved to gym because of stuffy nose and there test came back negative, but he has to stay in the gym because he's been exposed now.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – I think there is some misinformation here. The folks placed in the gym have tested positive.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Racus –Any schedule of when the guys can get their cell mates back?

Answer: CPM Schlagel – We have not set a schedule, but it is on our priority list.

Question 2

Racus – Some food trays are being left out overnight.

Answer: Associate Superintendent Mason – It has been an issue to get the trays back in a timely manner. It has been a staffing issue.

Comments/Closing

Our next COVID update teleconference will be Thursday, January 7th. At 1pm.