

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WA Corrections Center for Women

Date and Time: 7/01/2020, 12:00PM

Attendees

- Jason Rice, Babs Roberts, Renee Hafzalla, Cindy Robinson, Susan Sherman
- ASP Swain, AA3 O'Neil, ASO Chandler, AA4 Johnson, FSS Melhuish, CUS R. Rieck

Weekly Update

ASP Swain welcomes everybody and explained our pregnant women are housed according to their custody levels. For safety and security where they are housed is non-disclosable.

- Current facility numbers? 748 and 2 babies
- Numbers in isolation/quarantine? 23 in quarantine and 1 in isolation
- There are no new changes in medical/mental health delivery
- No women from Yakima went to Mission Creek.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

We understand that one of the medical staff is ill, and that all women who saw her are now quarantined. Is this correct?

Answer

We had 2 staff members call in with symptoms. Both have been tested for Covid 19 and are restricted from the facility until results are provided and they are asymptomatic. The patients quarantined were mapped for close contact and those who were determined as having close contact have been quarantined until results are known.

Question 2

Please can you explain the quarantine process again? If one woman is quarantined, what happens to the other women in her room?

Answer

Those quarantined are relocated to a separate room from those not exposed to the symptomatic patient. In cases where the symptomatic patient is the roommate then the symptomatic patient is isolated to a separate location and the roommates are quarantined together.

Question 3

We understand that the women in isolation are allowed (now) to have 3 showers per week? We continue to advocate that daily showers be allowed. Can you please have someone explain the reasoning behind this policy

Answer

The frequency of showers have been directed by HQ.

Question 4

Please can you give us an update on the phased re-opening as stated by Secretary Sinclair and how WCCW will implement this??

Answer

We met about this just yesterday with each program area. They were directed to give the Superintendent their plans for phased re-opening by the end of July. Supt. will review and send their requests up to HQ for their consideration.

Question 5

Have you been able to follow up with JPay regarding the expansion of video visits to 7 days per week?

Answer

As of today video visiting has resumed. Please know that the incarcerated individuals cannot access this during their work or program times.

Question 6

Is there an update on use of WCCW grown food at the facility to increase the nutritional value of the meals for women?

Answer

We have been using the extra veggies and are serving them meals as we have them.

Question 7

We're very thankful that the WCCW women have been able to make light-weight masks for the women at Mission Creek. Can you give us an update on this - have they been sent to Mission Creek?

Answer

We have not delivered any to MCCCW yet. We could, but we haven't yet. We have requested that MCCCW supply us with some supplies. We believe MCCCW has requested 300, but we have not supplied yet. We can revisit this next week.

Question 8

Do you need any supplies donated from the community?

Answer

Yes, we need the following to make masks:

- 1/8" elastic
- Cotton fabric with appropriate patterns, no solid colors
- Chiffon fabric
- Silk fabric.

The sole points of contact for these donations will be Ms. Jennifer Grabil and Mr. Mark Curneen. You can reach Mr. Curneen at mdcurneen@doc1.wa.gov

Question 9

What impact do you anticipate from the Governors recent announcement related to furloughs?

Answer

WCCW will have less staff at the facility.

Question 10

While we anticipate that COs will likely be exempted, will this impact non-correctional officer staff like program staff, medical staff, and others who provide services to our loved ones?

Answer

Yes indeed.

Question 11

Are you anticipating reductions in programming or delays in re-instating programming due to the furloughs?

Answer

No. WCCW is still working on this.

Comments/Closing

- We understand the fence around J Unit is finished, and that J unit will not be scheduled for yard time with any other unit? Is this correct? If so, is it in anticipation of the potential movement of MSU women to the Hill? Will the J Unit women be allowed to use the yard within the new fence around them?
 - The current fencing around J unit is not complete at this time but is in the process of being framed. The intended reason for this fence is to provide additional security for those MI2 offenders housed there following the possible future transition to MI3 on the MSC campus. J unit would be MI2 while K and L units would be MI3/Medium. The fencing does not limit the ability for J unit to utilize the large yard and the current schedule is listed below. Additionally K, and L units have the ability to utilize the back patio a few I/I's at a time and J unit has the ability to access the back patio and kids play area behind the unit, this is separate and more readily available to those incarcerated individuals in J unit. Due to safety precautions and CDC requirements constantly changing we sometimes have to adjust these schedules to accommodate these guidelines.
- Are masks mandatory?
 - Yes To continue safety for all, it is critical to ensure PPE procedures are followed at all times, no exception. It is our duty to ensure we provide services as appropriate to individuals and staff while maintaining a safe and secure environment. It is your responsibility to wear your mask PPE with mouth and nose covered and to assure that social distancing of at least six (6) feet is maintained. It must also be worn at all times inside buildings where incarcerated individuals are such as dayrooms, tiers, foyers, laundries or in locations shared with other staff such as break rooms or shared office spaces.