

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WA Corrections Center for Women

Date and Time: 7/09/2020, 12:00PM

Attendees

- Babs Roberts, Renee Hafzalla, Cindy Robinson, Susan Sherman, Laurie Dawson, Paul Gillespie
- Melissa Johnson, Bill Swain, Vaaia Gaines, Ryan Rieck, Kate Morisett, Janice Zimmerman

Weekly Update

DATA:

- Current facility numbers, including pregnant women and babies? 753 with 2 babies
- Are any of these women in units that are quarantined or locked down? No.
- How many are federal prisoners? 1 and is releasing next week.
- Numbers in isolation/quarantine? 2 ISO – The first test was negative - second tests pending
The 2 in quarantine were tested and are both negative.
- Which units have women in quarantine? Both are in Seg.
- We see that WCCW has posted one positive COVID 19 test result for a staff person. Is this related to the medical staff person(s) from last week? No
 - If so, what are the results of the contact tracing - specifically, have Incarcerated persons who had contact been quarantined? Those patients and staff who were mapped and determined to have had close contact have been quarantined. Quarantine is 14 days regardless of test results.
 - If so, how many women? How many units may be impacted by this? And where are the women quarantined? Were any of the women who had contact with the staff person pregnant? This sounds like they are speaking about the staff member who reported testing positive. If that is the case then there were no exposures to the facility both patients and staff. No one and no units are impacted.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Any updates on medical issues in the facility - COVID related or otherwise? Any changes in medical/mental health delivery?

Answer

Dental is continuing to see urgent and emergent cases. Medical and Mental health services are both actively seeing patients via tele, offsite and onsite services. New intake screening practices and testing are being put into place to further prevent COVID 19 entering the facility.

Question 2

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

Answer

All medical staff have tested negative for COVID 19 currently. We only have two patients on quarantine currently. New testing procedures are lessening separation times at intake.

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 and appreciate that this is a DOC HQ policy. Could DOC HQ provide a reason / science behind this policy?

Answer

Health Services will reach out to HQ for response and hope to have it by our next meeting.

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

Education is open as of July 8, 2020. There can be no more than 9 in a classroom at one time.

Question 5

Have you worked out the WCCW HQ coverage during these furloughs and can you share who will be on site when?

Answer

Units have counselors available during furlough days. Also there is one Correctional Unit Supervisor in the Main Campus and One CUS in the Minimum Security Campus

Question 6

At our last call you indicated you were working on coverage for programming. Do you have an update?

Answer

As stated above, education classes are taking place. We have no other updates.

Comments/Closing

- WCCW is continually taking deliberate steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 amongst our staff, the incarcerated population and the general public.
 - WCCW has received its first self-report that a staff member has tested positive for COVID-19. The individual is following Health Services protocols and isolating at home until approved to return to the workplace. I hope you will all join me in wishing them a speedy recovery.
 - We know you have a lot of questions regarding exposure. We have completed the individuals' contact mapping and have identified no exposure to staff or incarcerated individuals here at WCCW. If individuals were potentially exposed, please rest assured, we would have taken appropriate action to protect them.
 - Active screening continues to be one of our best defenses in keeping employees and our population safe and healthy. All staff continue to be screened prior to their entry into the facility with a temperature check and a series of questions.
 - Everyone here at WCCW has been issued protective equipment to keep themselves safe and to help prevent the spread of this virus among staff as well as the individuals housed here. We consistently encourage both staff and the women incarcerated with us to continue to wear appropriate PPE, wash hands and/or sanitize frequently and practice social distancing.
 - WCCW is committed to everyone's safety. We will continue to communicate with you as we progress through this pandemic.