

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Washington Corrections Center for Women

Date and Time: 09/10/2020, 12:00PM

Weekly Update

- Data
 - Current facility numbers, including pregnant women and babies? 756, 3 children, 5 pregnant.
 - Are any of these women in units that are quarantined or locked down? No
 - How many are federal prisoners? 0
- Health/Medical
 - Numbers in isolation/quarantine? 4 in ISO 0 in quarantine.
 - Numbers tested. We test everyone that comes into the facility via intake twice. Everyone who presents with symptoms twice and anyone who is on quarantine twice. We are also testing every staff member weekly.
 - For those in isolation or quarantine, have you been able to resume daily showers for these women? No, as this is restricted by headquarters.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

Recovery/Re-open? Can you give us an update from HQ on the planning related to resuming visiting and what that might look like children versus adults?

Answer

- We have members of the Safe Start Visitation Team coming to the facility sometime within the next 2 weeks for a site visit. As for what it will look like, we don't know yet.

Question 2

Programming/Nutrition? Can Ms. Zimmerman give an update on events planned (she spoke to this at the regular LFC meeting – were just looking for a quick update)

Answer

- Ms. Zimmerman is out until September 29th and will be able report the week she is back to work.

Question 3

We have confirmed that in at least the downtown kitchen the fresh produce is not being used and is either being thrown out, or given to staff or taken by women who can access it (before being used for meals). Are you aware of these concerns and if so, what is happening around this?

Answer

- This was addressed with the food service manager last week.

Question 4

Please give us an update on the staff testing – how is it going? How long for results?

Answer

- Testing is going well. The results are given within 72 hours. There are no plans to have the population tested.

Question 5

Can you update us on the HVAC filter question? What is the filter change schedule? Should we consider increasing the frequency of changes given the potential need (this winter) for the women to be indoors more- as a safety precaution? Some guidance from health professionals are indicating that increasing the replacement schedule of filters is a best practice to helping reduce disease transmission.

Answer

HVAC:

- Regional Care Facility (RCF): HEPA filters are used with filaments and fibers that carry a static charge. Filter changes every 6-12 months depending on occupancy/use.
- Living Units: Maximum Efficiency Reporting Values (MERV) 11 filters are used. Filter change rated at 3-6 months; we currently change out every 3 months without exception.

Comments/Closing

- ASO Chandler thanked everyone on the line for being there for their loved ones and to stay safe and have a great afternoon!
- Next meeting will be September 16, 2020 at 12noon.