

# Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

## Call Details

**Facility:** WSP / Teleconference

**Date and Time:** 12/29/2020, 1:00PM

## Attendees

- Associate Supt. Steve Barker, AA3 Carrie Meyer, SFC Rep Wendy Dubinsky, Hattie Wolf, Dean Dubinsky, OCO Caitlyn Roberts, Anna Ivanov, Steve Kugler, Loretta Pedersen, Connie Hollis, Carolyn Melhius

## Weekly Update

- COVID Informational

## Pre-Submitted Questions

### Question 1

Please provide the most up-to-date stats:

# of men in quarantine? **561**

In Isolation: **421**

Positives here now: **420 (w/2) of those at AHCC Regional Care Facility.**

# Total of men tested positive? **802 total cases**

# of Positives during the outbreak? **644**

# of staff screened out at this time? **Over 100**

# of staff tested positive? **87 total**

Testing approximately 930 a week, total of **16264 to date.**

Delta is on Quarantine

Echo is ½ Quarantine, ½ isolation

Waiting on 1 test Fox

60 in Victor

½ unit Golf (½ Quarantine, ½ isolation)

William 0

Unit 8 – isolation – off Friday

EC will be cleared

What about those who have been in quarantine all this time and someone shows up who is on isolation? Do they start over again? When does this end? Are there any units on a “normal schedule”?

- **No. No one is going to have a normal schedule. No units come out at the same time other units come out, they are not crossing other units at this time.**

Is DOC receiving vaccinations?

- We received 200 vaccines. They have been given to at-risk incarcerated and volunteer staff.

- Washington DOC will first be receiving the Moderna vaccine that is administered in two doses that are 28 days apart. The number of doses received by DOC is determined by the [Washington Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) based on availability and prioritization. Future shipments of the vaccine could contain either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
- All staff and the population has been instructed to social distance and wear masks. This protocol has not changed.

## Submitted Questions

2. Has DOC HQ Central Command (Deputy Director Cotton and Deputy Health Secretary Russell) given WSP leadership the ability to modify or make exceptions to standard operating protocols for infractions, prisoner laborer programming requirements, IMU placements, etc. for units currently on quarantine, isolation, or otherwise affected by the strains of COVID outbreaks?
    - i. [DOC staff and WSP leadership exercise professional discretion for many of these issues even during normal times. During these exceptional times, yes, there are many modifications and exceptions made to SOP.](#)
    - a. Is there any proposed modification (or atypical consideration and oversight by higher ranking supervisors) to hearing timelines and thorough review of circumstances and documentation surrounding any infractions or IMU placements during this intense and miserable time?
      - i. [There have been relatively few infractions during this prolonged emergency period. But Steve supervises the Hearings Dept. and has had several discussions with the Hearing Officers about this topic. Please understand that the Hearing Officers always take into account mitigating circumstances for every infraction.](#)
  3. Is DOC HQ Central Command and/or Superintendent Holbrook providing support and guidance (to include allowing flexibility in applying punitive policies) to all ranks of supervisory custody and programming staff concerning how to apply DOC's new cultural proclamations (see second to last paragraph of this [press release](#)) when deciding how to handle conflict between prisoners and staff, prisoners and prisoners, or staff and staff in units that are strained and stressed from being on quarantine, lockdown, and/or isolation for weeks or months on end?
    - i. [Yes. When there is an institution that is currently in an outbreak status, the DOC Leadership and the WSP Leadership discuss these types of issues during our daily check-in calls. It is interesting to note that although the institution has been under a prolonged outbreak status, there have been relatively few infractions.](#)
    - ii. [We are talking to them. I use this time to walk around the units in my chain and I talk to them. The CUS's and Associates are going out into the units.](#)
- Violence may be down due to the lockdowns but the resentment is up. Resentment for the CO's who say that they are short staffed but they are on the computers looking at YouTube.
    - [Staff cannot watch YouTube on state computers.](#)
    - [I believe that staff are showing up to do their jobs.](#)
    - [We understand that there is some resentment, we read it in their emails and hear it in their phone calls. CI is frustrated because incarcerates are not showing up to their jobs but continue to complain about the food and the service.](#)

- We continue to encourage people to talk. Talk TO each other, TO inmates, not AT them. We are all in this together. We are attempting to keep communication open by sending out “cell stuffers”
  - It was suggested that we do TV message recordings addressing the population and deliver them via the dayroom TV’s. This will be looked into.
4. Families are deeply and painfully aware that the morale of prisoners stuck on indefinite quarantine (who feel as if they are being punished for NOT testing positive), as well as morale of prisoners in isolation units (not to mention the morale of prisoners who have had their cellie assignments disrupted due to all the shuffling around), is plummeting. This appears to be exacerbating unconstructive interactions between all stakeholders in the prison. What are DOC HQ Central Command and local WSP leadership doing to re-stabilize (in a pro-social/supportive and non-punitive manner) what are starting to look to many like careening chaos dynamics?
- i. Keep in mind that the Incarcerated Population is currently over 2000 and the staffing model is over 1100 people. Everyone is tired and their morale is taking a beating. There is no doubt that the interactions between all stakeholders is currently suffering. It must be said that with all things considered, the re-stabilization process begins with getting the spread of the virus under control. When that happens and things begin to return to normal.
5. How is WSP leadership working with CI to address the debacle that has been widespread mainline meal shrinkage (smaller portions, missing items) as well as messed up commissary orders in recent weeks? How is WSP leadership going to ensure that guys who are being shuffled around among different units are not missing opportunities to order their commissary as scheduled and have it delivered to the correct housing unit instead of just being returned to CI because the prisoner has been moved for quarantine or isolation or recovery after testing positive?
- i. I met with the CI Food Service Manager and the General Manager yesterday and this morning to address the food issues. The problem is multi-faceted and we are attempting to address all of them at once so it will take some time. One of the issues is that the food factory at AHCC was shut down for a time. During that time the food had to be sourced from another vendor. There are delivery and preparation incapability issues with our current system but the Food Managers are working that out. Also, I was just informed this morning that CI is ordering snacks to send out to everyone in the population. They will be receiving two snacks a day in addition to their meals.
  - ii. The CI Leadership team is assisting with the delivery of the commissary orders to ensure that the guys who place orders are getting them delivered. The unit staff have been instructed to forward orders if someone gets transferred during the interim from the time that they place the order to when it is delivered.
  - iii. CI has also offered incentives to work for CI since the population cannot be forced to work for CI. They have been offered \$1.10 and a \$20 bonus each week as long as they show up for the available hours.

6. Once prisoners who test positive are no longer symptomatic, and are therefore not receiving vitals checks, how are they kept on schedule to return to their home living unit?
  - i. Keep in mind that not all of those who test positive are symptomatic. For those who were symptomatic, they go through a period of quarantine and then are sent back to their living unit. We have a staff member who is dedicated to tracking this information.
  
7. During the course of this pandemic, have any prisoners at WSP who are on quarantine, who have tested positive, who have underlying medical conditions, or who have cellies with underlying medical conditions been infracted, fired, informed they will be fired, or threatened with firing for declining to leave their quarantine cell or personal living area to go to their assigned job?
  - i. Not to my knowledge. There may have been staff who made these types of statements but I cannot recall seeing any infractions for this.
  
8. Seemingly small deviations by sergeants and unit C.O.s from what CUS's instruct concerning phone and shower schedules for guys in quarantine are a constant complaint and are causing resentment to build up in guys who have now been quarantined for almost two months straight in some cases. What can WSP leadership and unit CUSs do to ensure that things run strictly on schedule so that seeds of discontent do not bloom up like a mushroom cloud if people across the entire living unit get pressed beyond what they can bear?
  - i. We cannot ensure that things run on a strict schedule. The Unit Managers communicate with their sergeants and staff on how things are supposed to run. But there are always adjustments that have to be made for unforeseen circumstances. We have to continue to communicate the expectations for what the goals are and allow the leaders and supervisors in those areas the discretion to make those adjustments.

Other notable and non-related issues:

- Are you doing antibody testing at this time?
  - No, we are not.
- Have you stopped taking temperatures?
  - No. This has not been modified. Still must have 2 negative tests for everyone in the unit, 14 days from the last positive.
- Why are incarcerated missing legal calls?
  - This can be for a number of reasons, but occasionally the attorneys cancel the calls.
- Some inmates are having trouble communicating with cc's, can't kiosk them, are kites available? Some of them are working from home, how can they communicate with them if they aren't here.
  - The CC's are still making rounds and walking the tiers. Some of them have been tasked with other duties and are stretched thin as well.
  - We will send reminders to the CC's and CUS's.
- What has happened to the Unit Photo Program?
  - Why have the unit photo programs not been continuing?
    - Update: With everything that is going on, the unit photo programs are very low priority. We understand that these types of programs are important to the families and the population. However, these programs run with the help of Incarcerated Individual

workers under staff supervision. They have been suspended because of the current virus situation. The risk of exposure for the guys getting the picture, the worker and the staff member is just too great at this time. When things start to get back to normal, the programs will also start to return to normal.

- Video Visiting? Why are these being cancelled?
  - Unaware of them cancelling all visits. We will check on this as well.
    - Update: Yes, video visits in quarantine and isolation units have been cancelled for now. Our focus is on getting guys showers and phone calls rather than video visits. In most units, the shower and phone call rotation is difficult to correlate with the video visits and maintain sanitation and social distancing.