

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: WSP / Teleconference

Date and Time: 8/31/2021, 1:00PM

Attendees

- Steve Barker, Associate Superintendent; Sgt. Rocky Beal; Michael Eby, CS4; Monica Ritter, FRA2; Karen Cain & Debra Gilbreth, CPPC & Scribe

Weekly COVID Update:

Assoc. Superintendent Barker

WSP is still on “Cluster Status”. Cluster Status is defined as a group of COVID-19 positive cases that only involves staff and/or volunteers. The local paper stated that the Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) was in outbreak status, but that is inaccurate. WSP has had some staff test positive for COVID and we’ve had only 2 positive COVID cases in Unit 6 and in IMU S. Today the Incarcerated population in those units were tested again. Our “outbreak” is in a very limited area.

Questions:

- Is there concern about the number of staff that will leave their jobs because of the governors’ mandate that all staff must be vaccinated? Have they put in their notice?
 - We have heard from several staff that they aren’t happy about the mandate, but no, they haven’t put in their notice. We have had a few eligible staff retire because of the mandate. We won’t know how many will leave until the drop date next week. If staff choose to take the Moderna or the Pfizer, the cutoff date for that is Sept. 6th. The Johnson and Johnson supply is getting scarce because people are opting to take one shot instead of two.
 - There will be a certain percent of staff that won’t get vaccinated, and they will leave.
 - We are running vaccination clinics every day this week.
- Are we anticipating that the incarcerated population will be required to take the vaccine?
 - No, the incarcerated population will not be required to take the vaccine. When the vaccine is mandated for staff, they have a choice to take it or to leave. When someone is a ward of the state and it’s mandated, they don’t have a choice; as far as we know you can’t force the population to get the vaccination.

Next COVID-19 Teleconference **September 28, 1:00 pm** – via Teams

Next Local Family Council meeting **October 2nd, 8:30 am – 10:00 am** – via Teams