October 12, 2022

TO: All Interested Parties
   All Incarcerated Individuals
   
FROM: James Key, Deputy Assistant Secretary
       COVID-19 Operations

RE: Improving Program Access

As the department continues to move towards new normal operations, we are expanding program access to align with current Safe Start protocols with community COVID designations and facility operation levels.

Effective Monday, October 17th, when both county COVID designation and facility operations status is green (low), program areas will support cross-cohorting for education, work, religious, AA/NA, chemical dependency, recreation and all other programs. Masks and safe distancing within the program areas is encouraged to reduce risk, but not required. Please note: Sweat Lodge activities for unvaccinated versus vaccinated remain unchanged. Unvaccinated individuals may not participate in full inipi access.

When either the community or facility is operating in yellow (medium) or red (high) status due to community levels, facility-wide clusters or any COVID outbreaks, callouts will be limited to cohorts only. This will require facilities to use existing cohort movement plans and immediately notify staff to operate under the restrictions outlined in the Safe Start plan.

Since these designations can change during the course of the day, individuals should expect to have more restrictive measures implemented when outbreaks occur. We appreciate the incarcerated population working with facility personnel to transition through these new processes to improve access to programs.

JK:lf

cc: All Prison Facilities
    Lisa Flynn, Correctional Program Administrator
    Jamison Roberts, Emergency Operations Unit Manager

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”