

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 7/24/2020, 9:00 am

Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**

- **DOC Staff:**

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Michelle Duncan, Assoc. Superintendent

Jeff Kinne, Investigator 3

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant 3

Ken Jennings, Health Services Manager

Gheorghe Turcin, Family Services

- **OMBUDS**

Caitlin Robertson, Assistant Ombuds

- Please note:

- Questions for upcoming meetings are to be emailed to Kate Jansen at catherine.jansen@doc1.wa.gov no later than 8:00am Thursday. It is important that we received questions in advance to provide us time to research the answer. Not receiving questions may create a delay in a response.
 - All questions received afterwards will be held over to the next week or if time allows asked during the end of the conference call.
 - All questions sent to our staff before the informational sharing phone call during the week, will be answered on the Friday phone calls or forwarded onto DOCCOVID19@DOC.WA.GOV for appropriate response.
- Thursday mornings, questions will be categorized and reviewed by Associate Superintendent and Superintendent to have responses ready for the teleconference Friday at 9:00am.
- Some questions were grouped together as they were asked by more than one person.

- Additional guidelines:

- Meeting time will be one (1) hour.
- We will answer all the questions first and open up for questions/comments afterwards.
- If any questions are left unanswered at the end of the meeting, we will add them to the next meeting.
- Please ensure your phones are on mute.
- Please provide your name before asking a question or responding.

- LFC representatives are free to gather questions to ask, and to share responses; however, these calls truly need to be limited to LFC members in order to be productive, and to ensure that participation in these interactions can continue. **Please do not share COVID-19 informational call phone-in information with others, especially via social media.**
- If you, or you know someone that has a loved one at CRCC and would like to be added to the LFC list to receive call in information, meeting minutes and other correspondence the facility may send out please send an email to Catherine.jansen@doc.wa.gov or miduncan@doc1.wa.gov.

Weekly Update

Testing

Staff – CRCC continues to test all CRCC staff weekly. We have 60 staff members that have tested positive during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Incarcerated Individuals

Current population: 1804

Positive: 232

Transferred to a RCF: 107

In hospital: 0

Isolation: 45

Quarantine: 157

Recovered: 185

MI3 operations

Last week we talked about a new plan being developed for the units to open up additional time. We did review the plan and was determined that the MI3 will remain on their current schedule due to a high level of those on quarantine status. We have opened up day walking for MI3 units. Due to the limited number of individuals that we can let out in the cohort we can only open up the outside time for one unit at a time. Starting today F unit will be allowed outside for a 30 minute walk and then go in for their 30 minute dayroom time. G unit will go out on Saturday, H unit on Sunday and I unit on Monday. The remaining units will remain on their 30 minutes a day in their assigned cohorts.

This operational period will run until next Tuesday at which time we will again re-evaluate the status of our quarantines and restricted movement.

Again, as I mentioned on last week's call, it is more important that we ensure that we progress slowly with regards to movement and ensure that those cohorts and quarantined individuals are not interacting with those other cohorts.

Similar to the governor's order of the phase system in our communities, CRCC will also do a slow phased movement. This is a very important piece to continue to keep moving forward on all the progress that we have made thus far.

Alternate Housing location

CRCC continues to move individuals out of the tents back into the living units as their convalescing times ends. The plan is to have the tents removed by the end of the month.

Medium Unit Operations – B, C, D, E Units.

All medium units are allowed out of their cells for 2.5 hours a day, on a rotational basis. They are also given 30 minute outside time for walking every other day and will be going to the dining rooms to pick up their meals.

Pre-Exposed Questions

There were no questions sent in for this call.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Follow up question from last week about getting a shower every 7 days and you mentioned they have soap and water so they can do a sponge bath, but I am wanting to know if they get a wash cloth or some way to use that or do they have to use their hands and soap?

Answer

Yes, they receive towels.

Question 2

Looking at video visits again, now that it sounds like things are opening back up for MI3's maybe that is something that can look at getting back.

Answer

There is no operational plan to bring them back. It is part of the conversation and is obviously something that we want to get back to also but not part of our immediate plan.

Question 3

Is the 232 positive cases total since the very beginning of all of this, is there a number of how many people has recovered. Do you have that number?

Answer

No we currently do not have that number but I can try to get it and add it to the notes.

Question 4

Where do you find the past data from yesterday, last week, and last month in regards to the positive testing?

Answer

I don't think they maintain that on the DOC webpage. You can find them on our prior notes that are located on the DOC Webpage at <https://doc.wa.gov/family/council-crcc.htm>. Sandi Tewes stated that she has been keeping a spreadsheet and would be willing to email it to anyone that would like it.

Question 5

You have 157 people on quarantine, where are they located?

Answer

Those that remain on quarantine remain in their cells and located throughout the facility.

Question 6

So they are folks that are spread throughout the whole facility from individual exposure? So you are not counting entire units as being on quarantine even though some of them are still only coming out 30 minutes at a time?

Answer

Yes, this is restricted movement, in order to manage the cohorts. For clarification, when we refer to cohorts we mean that we only allow so many out at a time that interact with each other. So if someone comes up with symptoms we can manage it within the small group of people versus the entire pod.

Question 7

So you have given us numbers of quarantine in the past that was pretty much everyone in the medium security operation but now the allowed movement is almost exactly the same as when that happened so you are just changing the name of it. When guys are in the exact same condition in term of their movement being restricted as they were on quarantine and now the name quarantine is not attached to them anymore. This just tells us that you are playing a word game and that this is going to be the new normal indefinitely.

Answer

We are sorry you feel that way. The word cohort is attached to them not quarantine. The fact that we are reducing our numbers of quarantine is a positive thing. Quarantine are exposed cases and at one time the entire pod was quarantined but now we have been able to move many off quarantine but we are still cohosting people for those reasons.

Question 8

I'm trying to understand the difference between a cohort and a quarantine when nothing changed?

Answer

Cohort is where we have a group of individuals identified to control the amount of people that are out of the cell and interacting with each other at the same time. Yes it is still 30 minutes and we are working toward increasing that but very slowly. Quarantine is usually a cell or multiple cells, or could be the entire pod who has had exposure to someone who has tested positive or inconclusive for COVID. One thing that may help wrap your head around this is that early on we were on restricted movement with a lot of individuals quarantined. We are still on restricted movement but our numbers of quarantined individuals is far lower. That may be the difference that you are trying to understand.

Question 9

If the time has not changed then I don't understand why the verbiage has changed.

Answer

The verbiage has not changed. We don't have as many people that need to be quarantined. When we quarantine someone that means that they have had exposure and they are required to be quarantined for 14 days in their cell. We understand the confusion and we are trying to explain it the best we can. At this time they are still on restricted movement. We are moving towards more time and increasing the amount of individuals that are in the cohort instead of the 2 cells at a time. We had a positive case in the M13 units yesterday so we have to be very careful about allowing everyone to come out and get sick again.

Question 10

Can you provide a follow answer about my question last week about why no one at Headquarters or your facility will say that transfers to the camp are planned anytime in the near future and yet you have counselors that are telling folks to be ready at any time?

Answer

We cannot comment anymore on the transfers. We have answered the question multiple times. As of today, we are not moving anyone out of this prison to the camps. I do not know when that is going to open up and that is not really our call.

Question 11

I alerted you last week that your staff are giving our loved ones false information and false hope. Can you address that please?

Answer

This has been brought up on a few calls and we continue to tell you that we cannot comment on what the counselors are telling them. We believe that our counselors are simply trying to let the population know to hang tight and hopefully the department will start those transfers and to check in with them periodically. They do not know when those transfers are going to start any more than any of us do. So they are talking to their caseloads, keep them optimistic and positive that they will start, we just don't know when, so if they tell them to come back in a week and see where it is at, then yes I can see the counselors saying that. We do not feel they are lying to them by any means or providing them inaccurate information.

Question 12

Is the 30 minute day time, outside time is that going to on a rotational basis until things change.

Answer

Yes that is the plan. We will get through the MI3's and our operational period is small, 4 days so we will be able to re-evaluate it again early next week.

Question 13

Is that in addition to their 30 minutes?

Answer

The rotation starts with F unit so those individuals will be able to come out for 30 minutes to get some exercise and then they will have their additional 30 minutes of dayroom time. I was told today too by our operations folks that if they chose to not go out and walk around then they can have the full hour in the dayroom. But once outside they have to stay out for the 30 minutes. Tomorrow will G unit, then H unit and then I unit.

Question 14

Then you are going to re-evaluate all of that and it may change again. Is that correct?

Answer

Yes. We are hoping it changes for the positive the more we can get the quarantines lifted, which we do have some coming off. But things change here daily, I have said that a lot. That is always our priority to get them out of those cells but we have to listen to the professionals that are giving us some medical advice and helping us manage that piece of it too so we are going very slow and methodical in our process. If we don't we are looking at starting over again. We know we have said that a few times but is an important piece for everyone to understand. We do not want to go backwards and want to keep moving forward but in order to do that we have to move slow.

Question 15

Mediums have been able to get out every other day to walk for 30 minutes and it was stated in the information that when they did get to do that they would be able to get water to drink afterwards, especially since it is getting warm out there. I know my husband when he walked last time it was 98 degrees and the Ranger would not let them get any water to drink. They were told they had water in their cells and my husband has said that the water in the cell I horribly disgusting and it turns things yellow. Is there a way to allow them to get some water to drink and is there a reason why the water in the cell is turning things yellow? What type of water is it?

Answer

The water in the cell is the same water that comes out of the facet in the dayroom. In regards to getting water when they come back in from the walk we will follow up with operations to find an answer.

Follow-up: Medium custody individuals that return from outside walking is allowed to get ice and water before returning to their cell.

Question 16

I encouraged my husband to write a grievance about not being allowed to get water after they come in from their 30 minute walk but he said there was no point in that because it goes to the sergeant and the sergeant is the one telling everyone to go into their cells.

Answer

It is unfortunate, I wish he would and hopefully you can help encourage him to do that. I know that sometimes they feel like maybe they don't get a response, but there are several levels to a grievance. We have a level 0 which is an informal resolution. Level 1 which our Grievance Coordinators typically respond to at this institution, level 2 goes to the manager and then level 3 goes to HQ. There are different levels they can push it to. They can always send us a kite or the unit manager so that it can be looked into.

Question 17

Did the times out for the medium change for them or is it just the time out to get their food?

Answer

Yes, that is the only thing that has changed for them is to go to mainline to get their food. That does give them additional time out. They still have the 30 minutes outside walk time every other day but will be able to come out twice a day to get food which will give them additional exercise.

Question 18

Do you guys have any idea maybe when the weight pile will start to open up at the camp, is that a through right now?

Answer

No, weight equipment is something that has not been allowed since the start of this, similar to the community in which the gyms are not open and is very difficult to keep clean. There is no discussion at this time on opening those things back up.

Question 19

On the DOC Website there are different phases, not like those we have out here but you have different phases. Are we still technically in phase 1.

Answer

Safe start phases, yes it looks like our current practice is step one.

Question 20

So step three is visiting in person, is that correct?

Answer

Step 3 is no more than 50 people or at 50% capacity and the step 4 is resuming normal visits. When we get to step 3 we will probably have some conversations about what that looks like for CRCC.

Question 21

I just want to clarify what you said about visitation looking different for CRCC.

Answer

It is the 50% capacity that we were referring too because we can imagine that our visitation room will fill up pretty fast.

Question 22

Is that going to be something that will be part of the LFC to discuss that stuff and take our input because I can imagine that once we open everyone is going to want to go?

Answer

I think that there are some folks in HQ that may start working on what that is going to look like. It is going to impact every facility so will likely be a discussion at the statewide level and with the Statewide LFC representatives.

Question 23

The men received a memo about when the minimum units will be getting out for longer periods of time but shows that I unit is only going to be getting out once. Is there a reason why I unit is only once?

Answer

It is because the way the rotation goes and that the paper is only so big so I unit was cut off the schedule. What it is F unit, G unit, H unit, I unit and then starts over again and keep that rotation.

Question 24

I have not seen my husband since February and I just don't understand why there isn't like a reason why we do not have video visits.

Answer

It really is the challenge of the scheduling and comingling of those that are on the quarantine. It is hard to schedule those and unfortunately Jpay does not have the ability to turn on one Jpay kiosk, it is all or nothing. For you to schedule that and try to coincide and coordinate their time out and others it is just a challenge it cannot happen right now. We will have a number of individuals on quarantine and restricted movement. It is about the safety of the population and until we can manage it appropriately. When we can do that we will.

Question 25

What is the reason the camp cannot have them?

Answer

They do have video visits in the camp.

Question 26

Monroe is going through the same thing and they are allowed to have video visits, I do not understand it. It is the one way that we can actually see our loved ones.

Answer

You know that anyone that has been to CRCC you know that our camp is separate from main so Jpay is able to separate the kiosk from the camp so they are able to allow the kiosk to operate down. They are not able to do that in the Mediums and MI3's.

Question 27

So how can they separate it for camp but not be able to separate it between medium and minimum.

Answer

Essentially it is like two different addresses. They can turn one address on for the medium and one for the Minimum. Within the medium we have 8 living units so they are either all on or all off. And the camp being a separate address being the same thing, they are all on or all off.

Question 28

My husband is in medium security and they have been out a few hours every day so I just don't see why he wouldn't be able to take 20 minutes or 30 minutes out of that time to be able to talk with me on video visits.

Answer

It would be because the MI3's and the medium units are one address so the MI3's would be turned on as with the mediums and the folks in the MI3's will be trying to schedule video visits and their loved ones would not be able to participate. Not only that, if someone were to schedule it then it shuts the machine down for everyone during that time and they would not be able to use it to sync their machines.

Question 29

So it is tying up the KIOSK so their might be scheduled visits? So we could not send out a letter to the MI3's letting them know video visits is not available to them so that medium security families could use them?

Answer

Unfortunately it is not that simple. We have nearly a thousand individuals over there and all of their loved ones that are on their visit lists that want to participate in video visits, it is just not that simple. People are going to try to schedule and try to get on just as we have individuals that step out of their cell and use the phone when they should not be. They are going to get on the KIOSK and try to do a video visit when they shouldn't.

Question 30

I also would like to know that if someone is tested positive right before they are released are they still going to be able to release?

Answer

Yes they are released with many precautions they are released.

Question 31

I would like to comment that I appreciate the person that gave that explanation and actually answering the question rather than the answer I got earlier.

Answer

We have explained this multiple times and I appreciate Mr. Kinne, he does a good job explaining it but we have discussed this multiple times so I appreciate the comment and feedback but a lot of things you are asking we have responded to multiple times.

A comment was made that we do that, but the way it is answered sometime is so short and you guys are clearly frustrated, we can hear it in your voice, and what Jeff said earlier is frustrating and no one has explained it in that detail of an answer before at all.

Question 31

It has been brought up a lot about video visits but I am sure that you understand a little bit of our frustration and not being able to see our loved ones and that is why it gets brought up.

Answer

We know and understand the frustration and I have asked the same questions and had similar requests when we discuss the ability for video visits. It is a priority for us to get the video visits up as soon as we can but it can't be our first priority right now. We have to make sure that everyone is safe.

- Thank you for joining us. Next week's call will be Thursday July 30th at 1200.