

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 8/06/2020, 0900

Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**

- **DOC Staff:**

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Michelle Duncan, Assoc. Superintendent

Paige Perkinson, Engagement and Outreach PS4

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant 3

Tim Taylor, Health Services Manager

Bill Copeland, 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 8:00 am Wednesday. 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.

- 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.

- **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 72 staff members that have tested positive during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Incarcerated Individuals

Current population: 1800

Positive: 233

Currently in RCF/MCC: Approximately 6

In hospital: 0

Isolation: 4

Quarantine: 10

Recovered: Approximately 221

MI3 Operations – I, G, H, F Units

MI3 unit operations has increased the cohort size to 5 cells at a time and allowed for 1.5 hours of time out of the cell. For the days that they are on the outside walking schedule they will go back to the 1 hour out schedule due to the logistics of the walking schedule and keeping the cohorts separated.

This operational period will run until Friday 08/07/20 and will be reevaluated at that time.

UPDATE: The new plan has been established and we have increased the cohort size to 10 cells and dayroom time to 2.5 hours in the MI3 units.

Alternate Housing Location

Currently we have no incarcerated individuals housed in Alternative Housing.

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

There has been no changes to the medium unit operations. 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

Question 1:

On the DOC Covid page “Individuals Tested” was recently added. What and who does that represent? Not getting a response when emailing about it.

Answer:

This number represents the number of incarcerated individuals who have been tested for COVID-19 in our facilities. For example, individuals may be included more than one time in this number as it is reflective of each instance of testing. So if an individual is placed on quarantine and tested on April 3, and gets a negative test, they will be counted. If they get tested for a different exposure on June 11, they will again be counted.

Question 2:

What about adding more movement and doing random testing to ensure it has not spread again? This way the men would get out more and there would be a quicker response to the spread if it were to come back.

Answer:

Random testing doesn't really work. What we are doing is testing any individual that comes down with symptoms. To add more movement requires that we add the number of people allowed out at a specific time.

That means that there is a higher risk of more people catching the virus should those people be exposed. This can create problems. For example, a unit porter who cleans the unit becomes sick, there is a possibility that they have exposed a majority of the unit to the virus. Which means that we could be testing roughly 128 people, so essentially the entire pod and putting them on quarantine. This is why we are keeping the cohorts so small, so that the exposure is smaller in scale.

That being said, our top priority is to get these individuals more time out of their houses. We simply want to do this as safely as possible for all involved. We will test those that present symptoms and also those close contacts he may have had.

Additional Questions

Question 1

The counselor told Michael that they would remain in that unit until January, is that accurate?

Answer

No. We have started working towards moving people back to the MI3. We are doing it in spurts, about 20 at a time.

Question 2

What would be the difference between the individuals tested and the completed tests column? Wouldn't those numbers be the same?

Answer

The individuals tested would be for each instance in which an individual is tested. It is about the circumstances of them being tested. For example, if someone gets put on quarantine, they need two negatives to come off quarantine status. So that individual would receive two different tests, but only one individual would be recorded.

Question 3

The individual tested isn't correct because the individual tested isn't 3686, because of all the double negatives, that would be the number of tests completed, right?

Answer

The DOC is working on definitions to help people understand the way the results are reported. I do know that if someone gets one negative test, and then they get another negative test, we only report the one negative.

Question 5

And that would show up in the negative tests or in the individuals tested?

Answer

It would show up in the negative tests, tests completed, and individuals tested.

Question 6

If they had a positive after their negative, then both of those would be reported?

Answer

As stated they are working on updating the definitions. Both positive and negative is reported. If they had another exposure however, that would be another instance of testing which would fall under individuals tested.

Question 7

Once we get into a normal movement, will we do random testing of units to help catch exposures quicker?

Answer

Doing random tests doesn't really work, because it is random. The process as it is right now is if they are presenting symptoms then they will be tested along with anyone that may have had close contact.

Question 8

The new containers for the food are super flimsy and messy. Are you aware that there are new containers for their meals?

Answer

I am not aware of new containers. I will have to look into that.

Question 9

I know that Medium was allowed to go to mainline to receive their food, but they are now receiving food in the unit again. Can you please explain that?

Answer

That was just for a few days while we were moving the tents. We didn't want all the movement while we were moving up to eight semi-trucks out of the institution. They will resume the "grab and go" meals.

Question 10

They took someone out of F Unit yesterday. If he becomes positive, does this whole process start over again?

Answer

If that person is sent to isolation due to COVID concerns then the cohort would get put under quarantine and they would be tested. The rest of the unit would continue regular operations. That cohort would still get some time out as well.

Question 11

I thought the last number was 232 cases but now it is 233 this week. Why is that?

Answer

That goes down to how we count. There was someone from CRCC that ended up in the hospital, and then went to another institution. Due to the way in which the numbers are counted, that case was attached to Coyote Ridge's numbers.

- Thank you for joining us. Next week's call will be Thursday August 13th at 0900.