

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 9/10/2020 @ 0900

Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**

- **DOC Staff:**

Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent

Ken Jennings, Health Services Manager

Jeff Kinne, Incident Command

Michelle Duncan, Associate Superintendent

Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant 3

Paige Perkinson, Engagement and Outreach

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

COVID-19 Informational Call Notes will now go on the facility bulletin boards and facility Kiosks. We do ask that people now announce themselves so that information is available for the call notes.

Testing

Staff – CRCC continues to test all CRCC staff weekly. We have 79 staff members that have tested positive during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Incarcerated Individuals

Current population:

Positive: 233
In hospital: 0
Isolation: 0
Quarantine: 0
Recovered: 231

MI3 Operations – I, G, H, F Units

The minimum unit operations have not really changed since the last operational period. Dayroom activity will still be based on one tier at a time, 20-24 cells at a time, with each tier having 2.5 hours of dayroom in the morning, and 2.5 hours of dayroom in the evening daily. MI3 Units will also have 50 minutes each day for yard. Lunch is now the only meal that will be eaten in unit. Breakfast and dinner will be served in the dining hall with individuals picking up their lunch during breakfast.

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

There has been no changes in the Medium unit operations to coincide with the MI3 operations. Dayroom activity will still consist of on tier at a time, with each tier receiving 2.5 hours out in the morning and in the evening each day on a rotational schedule. Medium units will also receive 50 minutes a day of yard time. Medium units will also be eating breakfast and dinner in the dining hall; while lunch is grabbed at breakfast and eaten in unit.

Additional callouts have been allowed for: Property, Hearings, Grievance Department, and Education for material handouts. Certain recreation activities have been allowed as long as social distancing is maintained. These activities include: horseshoes, pickle ball, ping pong, corn hole, push up paddles, ab wheels, exercise mats, medicine balls, jump ropes, Frisbees, fitness machines, pull up and dip bars, hacky sacks, and billiards. Yoga classes have also been approved to resume. Please be aware that some of these activities may only be allowed at MSC or MSU.

This operational period went into effect today and will run until Friday 9/17/2020, at which point it will be reevaluated at that time.

Pre-Exposed Questions

There were no pre-exposed questions sent this week. Please send pre-exposed questions to catherine.jansen@doc1.wa.gov.

Additional Questions

Question 1

You said that yoga classes are allowed to resume, does that involve outside volunteers?

Answer:

No, they are offender-lead classes.

Question 2

Is yard time still 50 minutes? Is there any addition time?

Answer

No, it is still the 50 minutes. We are still cohorting the units. The goal is that we are not intermixing the pods. The yard and dining room have more space to social distance versus the dayroom. That is why the dayroom is cohorting by tiers.

Question 3

There have been two new staff member cases since last week?

Answer

Yes, we have.

Question 4

Were they located in the units or somewhere else within the facility?

Answer

We can't provide any information in regards to that.

Question 5

Can you talk about the internal movement that is happening? About promotional moves?

Answer

We still have to do internal movement so that we can make room due to the fact that we are once again receiving chain buses. We do have to move people to accommodate for incoming persons.

Question 6

You are still receiving people and moving people to/from camps?

Answer

We don't receive anyone directly from the street, we receive them from other institutions. Those decisions are made at the Headquarters level. We talked in great detail about this last week, and we have encouraged you to reach out to the Headquarters Correspondence Unit if you have questions regarding transfers to camp.

Question 7

I heard that there was an audit taking place yesterday-can you tell us a little bit about that?

Answer

The information isn't quite right. That is actually happening today. We do have a quality assurance audit that is from Headquarters. They are here to make sure that we are following proper protocols and procedures. It is happening at all facilities. We also have an internal quality assurance process.

Question 8

I would like to know some information about the fire season. Is there any information on the website?

Answer

You probably won't find that on the DOC website. You might be able to find it on another site. However, we don't have any fires around us at the moment. In regards to air quality, we do have procedures in place for that. That would include handing out masks, modifying movement, etc.

Question 9

If there is a fire, do you have plans to evacuate if needed?

Answer

I can assure you that we have plans for everything. If needed we have a plan, resources, and community support to get this facility evacuated. We do receive some priority with the local jurisdiction given the fact that we are a prison facility. We do have plans to deal with a fire situation if needed.

Question 10

Have you stopped providing the bottled water? If so, what is the reasoning for that?

Answer

Based on the amount of time out, there is ample opportunity to get water. They are not locked in those cells, so they have the ability to get water. However, if more water is needed within the units, and unit staff make the request, we can provide that.

Question 11

Can I get the schedule for the MI3 units?

Answer:

The schedule is the same. We haven't changed it, the only thing that changes are the dates. Today it starts with the upper tiers, tomorrow will be the lower tiers, etc.

Question 12

So the tier schedule is something that is going to stay? They aren't going to get any more time out?

Answer:

I don't know that. It is important that you try not to predict what we are going to do. It is best that you stay in contact with the facility and stay up to date with information that is being released. There are times when we get direction from others in regards to our planning and operations which could change things. I would encourage you to stay in contact and connected.

Question 13

Some of your protocols seem contradictory. It seems hard to maintain control when you are doing so much movement.

Answer:

I can understand that. We have to keep moving forward. We can't stop movement as we still have people coming into the system and we have to try and manage that. The cohort is about managing spread, but it is also about space. The dayrooms are not large enough to allow the entire pod out and still remain socially distant. The dining room and the yards are much larger, so we can manage the social distancing with more people. But there are times when we have to move people for safety and security reasons. We are trying to balance all of it, and it does look contradictory at time, but we can't stop regular prison operations.

Question 14

In regards to JPay and video visits, I was charged for my second visit. I have even been charged for my first visit in the past.

Answer:

I had this question raised and I spoke with JPay, you have to establish a pattern of video visits. So you would need to schedule two video visits per week the first week, before the second video visit will be free. A pattern of visitation has to be established before the free video visits are loaded.

Question 15

After a vaccine is created, would that be available to the population?

Answer:

Any vaccinations that are implemented within the Department is approved through Headquarters. If that determination is made, we follow whatever protocols Headquarters had established to administer that vaccination.

Question 16

Once that happens will we resume a normal visitation?

Answer:

It is really hard to predict what we are going to do, or what might happen. I wouldn't be able to say.

- Thank you for joining us. Next week's call will be Friday September 16, 2020 @0900.