

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 9/24/2020 @ 0900

Attendees

- **Local Family Council Members**
- **DOC Staff:**

Michelle Duncan, Associate Superintendent	Bill Copeland, Family Services
Ken Jennings, Health Services Manager	Paige Perkinson, Engagement and Outreach
Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant	Jeff Uttecht, Superintendent
- **OMBUDS**
Caitlyn Robertson, OCO
- 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 – 81

Incarcerated Individuals: 233

In hospital: 0

Isolation: 1

Quarantine: 0

Recovered: 231

MI3 Operations – I, G, H, F Units

Dayroom activity continues with 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. The evening hours changed slightly from 5:30 pm – 5:00 pm or until formal count clears. The last hour from 8:00 pm to 8:45 pm is reserved for those essential workers. MI3 units will also receive 50 minutes a day of yard time.

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

Medium unit operations to coincide with the MI3 operations and dayroom activity will still consist of one 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. The times in the evenings changed to 5:00 pm to 8:45 pm, allowing for a little more time in the evenings. Medium units will also receive 50 minutes a day of yard time.

Smudge pads have are still open for use. Some religious meetings with the Chaplains have been approved. As of September 28, 2020 programming for Walla Walla Community College, Thinking for a Change, Substance Abuse Treatment, and Vocational programs will resume. Those classes will hopefully begin and will be at a reduced capacity to accommodate social distancing. Law Library continues to be open for callout, but the state libraries will remain closed.

This operational period went into effect today and will run until Thursday 10/8/2020 at which point it will be reevaluated at that time.

Question 1

What was that about the college? I didn't quite understand.

Answer:

Walla Walla Community College does some of our educational programs. They offer GED classes, AA degree, and some vocational degrees.

Question 2

The welding and the HVAC classes are now available?

Answer

Yes, we are starting those programs back up. The two vocational programs we have are welding and HVAC here at the main institution.

Question 3

Does the dinner schedule rotate?

Answer

It is my understanding that the schedule rotates. I will reach out to the Captains and make sure that I have that correctly. UPDATE: Yes, the dinner schedule rotates units daily.

Question 4

Can you tell us how many hours per week someone taking classes may be sitting in a classroom?

Answer

It depends on the class that they are in. For example, T4C is in class for 3 hours a week. Some of our GED classes may be 5 hours a week. It is all really dependent on the class. If you have questions about a specific class please let me know and I will research it for you.

Question

Do you know when they will resume religious activities?

Answer

We have resumed some of our religious services. I know that some of our religious leaders have been meeting with our chaplains. We are trying to ensure that we can maintain social distancing. We are following Safe Start phased program and we are currently in Phase 1.

Question 6

I am looking at the Safe Start phases, and it looks like education should be suspended until Phase 3. If we are still in Phase 1, how are we going to start bring education back in? It is a little contradictory. The safe start notes that programs are suspended until phase 3.

Answer

Phase 1 states that programs can resume at a modified schedule. We are reinstating programs at a modified schedule. If you have questions concerning the Safe Start Program, I recommend that you reach out to the DOC Correspondence Unit so that you can get some clarification on that.

Question 7

This is Paige up at Headquarters and I see what they are taking about. I will take this up to Headquarters and I will see if I can get the PDF updated.

Answer

Thank you Paige.

Question 8

What are the qualifications for joining the HVAC program?

Answer

No extra requirements except for a GED. They do prioritize by ERD and Risk Level Classification (RLC). Since the program is 5 quarters the Education Department does try to ensure that they will be at CRCC long enough to finish the program. If someone is interested in going to school, I would recommend that they kite Education and communicate their interest. Additionally information can be found in DOC 500.000 Education and Vocational Programs in Prisons.

Question 9

Has there been any information of what CI plans on using the Food Factory for?

Answer

We haven't heard anything. Currently there is a lot of equipment that will have to be moved. We are equally curious about what will be done with the space.

Question 10

Are you guys currently occupying the EFV or Visitation rooms?

Answer:

No. We occasionally have a meeting in there due to the size of the room, but we are not using it as a designated space. At MSU the rooms were occupied as part of the extended housing options. Currently we are not housing anyone in those areas.

Question 11

They are only allowing two people to sit at a table during dayroom time. This is hard when trying to play a group game or activity. It sounds as if things in the dayroom are being micromanaged.

Answer:

It has been a rule since we came off restrictive movement that there are only two people at a table. We are constantly reminding people to social distance. We are trying to get individuals to comply with the rules, and sometime multiple reminders. Overall, we are doing very well with this. We do pay attention to the way our staff is interacting with people. It may come across as micromanaging, but we are trying to keep everyone here as safe as we can.

Question 12

Does the two at a table rule apply to men that are in a four man cell?

Answer:

Yes, it has been that way since we came off restriction. Trying to get around that would be impossible to manage.

Question 13

Is it also true that they can't stand at the phone?

Answer:

That is the rule. The barriers for the phone only go so high. We have asked that they sit at the phone to maintain a barrier.

Question 14

Why is they are sitting at different tables could they not be turned around and talk to one another?

Answer:

We aren't aware that there is a rule. However, we hope that they maintain a six foot distance and those tables are fairly close together.

Question 15

Are your compliance spotters only checking the individuals or also the staff?

Answer:

Everyone. It is about compliance, it isn't about individuals or staff.

Question 16

When we resume short line, will they be going by unit or as a facility?

Answer:

That hasn't been finalized yet, so I can't answer that question.

Question 17

Have they already sent people out to measure for barriers when we have visitation resume?

Answer:

No, that hasn't happened yet.

Question 18

Have you heard about a new ping pong table for H Unit?

Answer:

I haven't heard about that, but we can get it replaced.

Question 19

Are you telling staff that this new schedule is going to be the new normal?

Answer:

We don't know what the future holds.

Question 20

Are video visits allowed after their time ends, even if the dayroom is empty?

Answer:

No. When their dayroom time is over they should return to their cell.

Question 21

Are you guys going to bring back the dog program? Will the dog handlers get more time?

Answer:

Yes, we have dogs coming back into the institution. I don't have all the specifics on the time allowed out for dog handlers but they will be able to come out of the cell to ensure the animals are properly cared for and opportunity to go outside.

Question 22

Have there been any talks about movement to other facilities?

Answer:

We do have movement in and there has been movement out.

Question 23

How would my loved one know where he is in the process of transferring?

Answer:

He could speak to his counselor, but if there has been a final custody facility plan in place, then it is up to Headquarters classification at that point to finalize placement at another facility.

- Thank you for joining us. Next week's call will be Thursday October 1, 2020 @0900.