

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details

Facility: Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Date and Time: 10/1/2020 @ 0900

Attendees

Local Family Council Members

- **DOC Staff:**

Michelle Duncan, Associate Superintendent
Ken Jennings, Health Services Manager
Kate Jansen, Administrative Assistant

Bill Copeland, Family Services
Paige Perkinson, Engagement and Outreach
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

Testing

Staff – 82

Incarcerated Individuals: 233

In hospital: 0

Isolation: 2 pending test results

Quarantine: E Unit B Pod (expected to come off this morning)

Recovered: 231

MI3 Operations – I, G, H, F Units

The previous operation plan is still in effect, so unit operations are the same as last week. There was a minor change to the dayroom schedule.

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 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 on 9/24/2020 and will run until Thursday 10/8/2020.

Question 1

As we enter flu season, have protocols been established for what happens if someone reports flu symptoms? The worry is that they will be sent to the hole, their belongings packed up and access to family and showers will be cut significantly. Or will they be tested for COVID and quarantined while waiting for results?

Answer:

If an individual is exhibiting COVID/Flu like symptoms they will be isolated and their close contacts will be quarantined. The individual will be tested for COVID immediately. The issue is COVID and Flu share many similar symptoms so we will have to isolate both and rule out COVID with the negative tests. Once COVID is ruled out, flu only requires a 72 hour isolation after symptoms resolve- therefore the individual may release back to population once they have met this standard.

Question 2

What is the timing between the two negative tests?

Answer

Between the two tests there has to be at least 48 hours. Part of this relies on the lab, and the time frame it takes to get results from the laboratory.

Question 3

Are the staff still being tested?

Answer

Yes. Staff are still being tested each week.

Question 4

Last meeting it was discussed that they were opening Religious Activities, do we know what has been opened up? Or is that still being discussed?

Answer

Some of our leaders of our Religious Programs are meeting with the Chaplains. I will follow up on this for your information.

Update: Our religious coordinators provided the following. This continues to be evaluated and discussed on what we can move forward on.

MSC:

- Just had the very first of leadership meetings with each of the religious groups – about 2 men met with me for an hour for each group
- The smudge pads opened a few weeks ago
- Religious property continues to go out to units – to be distributed via property someday?
- Rounds continue to be made to all units weekly
- Periodicals continue to be delivered to the units monthly

MSU:

- AA
- Native American Talking Circle
- Native American Drumming
- Native American Regalia
- Native American White Bison Recovery
- Pagan – Asatru
- Christian Service
- Buddhist Service

Question 5

Has the measuring been done for the barriers for the Visiting Room, and has the Visiting Room been cleaned out?

Answer

Yes the measuring has been done. The Visiting Room at the main institution has always been cleared. MSU visitation room also has been cleared out to accommodate the barriers.

Question 6

How many individuals are in each side of the pods?

Answer

Each living unit holds 256 individuals, 128 per pod. However, not all units have 128 per pod as our numbers are still low.

Question 7

I heard that you can now wear cloth masks instead of surgical masks, is that true?

Answer

Yes, that is correct. We have moved to face coverings instead of the surgical masks.

Question 8

The families are wondering why we are still on restricted movement. Is this a directive coming from Headquarters?

Answer

We are not on restrictive movement. All of our movement has opened up. The dayroom access is limited so that we can social distance within the dayroom. All movement at this time is based on ensuring that individuals have the ability to socially distant themselves from others whether it be in the living units, yard, dining rooms, work or education.

Question 9

This is Paige Perkinson and I just wanted to let you all know that this is something that is coming from Headquarters.

Answer

Thank you Paige.

Question 10

When will the Gym and the weight decks be open?

Answer

We don't know at this time.

Question 11

When can we look at getting off the modified movement?

Answer:

The only restriction we have currently is access to the dayrooms and the yard. The movement is still operational, we aren't restricting that. We are limiting the number of people that can be within certain areas so that we can maintain social distancing.

Question 12

How many people are going to Education in the morning for callout?

Answer:

I don't have that information. I would have to look up that information. After looking this information up, there were 132 individuals on an education callout on the morning of Thursday, October 1st, 2020.

Question 13

I want to know how many people are programming and going to the same location together to eat.

Answer:

The dining rooms that we have are very large. They sit two to a table. We do expect them to be socially distant.

Question 14

Why would we make such great efforts to maintain cohorts, but then mix them up for Education and other programming?

Answer:

It is based on numbers. We are trying to keep our population socially distant and healthy. Our educational classrooms have also decreased in terms of capacity to allow for social distancing. We can't run a class with just one tier of a unit, it is not practical. If we could run it that way, we would.

Question 15

Can you provide us with the number of people transferring out to camp every Thursday?

Answer:

That isn't normally information we provide.

Question 16

What does the time out look like for the dog program?

Answer:

There are scheduled times that the dogs are allowed out to be taken care of. I don't have the specific times, but I do know that the animals are very well taken care of.

Question 17

Is there any more information on the upcoming quarterly package? It was delayed till November?

Answer:

I don't know about that. I will look into it and get you some information.

Question 18

Why would an individual get in trouble for having excess food that they are allowed to purchase?

Answer:

The policy says that they are allowed to have the amount that the space in the cell can accommodate; however with consumable items we do not normally confiscate those. Those items would only be confiscated if it became a safety and security issue.

Question 19

Who in Headquarters gave the directive for the modified movement?

Answer:

It is made by the Emergency Operation Center. It isn't a singular person that makes that decision.

Question 20

Do you foresee any changes to the operation plan for next week?

Answer:

We don't know what could possibly happen within the next week. I couldn't speculate on that.

- Thank you for joining us. Next week's call will be Thursday October 8, 2020 @0900.