

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 02/26/2021, 2pm – 3pm

Attendees

Lynn Barker
David Bullard
Jody Bullard
Karen Cain
Felix D'Allesandro
Caryl Darby
Diane Durall
Laynara Ferriera
Josephine Johnson
Bridge Moline
Cait Moore
Dianne Pasta
Virginia Sprague
Joanne Todd
Carol Welch
Danielle White

Note: This call was a Telephone conference. We took attendance of MCC Family Council members, but not the DOC Staff and OCO staff. In order not to miss anyone, I have not included names.

Weekly Update

DOC will no longer be using Skype for virtual meetings, therefore this is an old school conference call. We had a meeting with Deputy Director Jeneva Cotton and all the LFC officers from all DOC facilities. Our calls in the future are going to be via Microsoft teams, which is much different than Skype. With the program we will not be able to control chat which are not official documents. We will be able to dial in by phone if you don't have Microsoft teams. All correspondence will sent Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) from now on but will have a notation of what groups received the email.

Last 30 days confirmed COVID cases 148. Total number of confirmed cases 550.

Question 1

My Loved One is at TRU and is quarantined, we're assuming it's the kitchen again. The reason for this is the possibility that a staff member came in contact with a positive person and his roommate may have been in contact with the staff member. This is 3rd party tracing which no one is doing. Not only that but the kitchen staff continued to work last night even after others were put on quarantine. His coworkers were out in mainline and walking the dogs.

Then when the dinners came in, they once again sat out in the corridor until they were cold while both C & D units went to mainline. We were told they were not supposed to be mixing.

Answer

A review of the cameras was conducted and found the food cart arrived on the unit at 5:38pm. Staff started donning PPE and prepping the food cart to deliver to the tiers within two minutes and began delivery within 10 minutes. I didn't see both units going to mainline at the same time. Yes, the dog handlers were out with the dogs when C unit was going to mainline, but they were on the grass letting the dogs go to the bathroom and were distanced from the walkways and not mixing with I/I's from C unit.

There was certainly a miscommunication in the manner that individuals were sent to the dining hall for their Grab and Go meals. According to Food Services the procession appeared to be a group from C unit, then a group from D unit and so on.

At the same time as all this was occurring, shift was dealing with a disruptive individual on one of the living unit that required a lot of staff resources. I'm grateful to report that the issue was resolved without a use of force.

Question 2

Quarantine and Mapping question regarding TRU.

Answer

Staff watched the video for 7 hours and protocol was followed by all. Therefore with everyone following the guidelines they were able to clear the individuals and were able to get the population off quarantine in a timely manner.

Question 3

It is said that yard is off limits with army tents? Any idea when the individuals will be able to go out to yard again. I'm getting the sense this is a big deal. Frustration, depression and hopelessness have been words used. Particularly in light of no in person visitation.

Answer

The Rapid Deployment Care Facility remains in the TRU Yard for the time being. Unfortunately we have run out of options. Individuals at TRU can go the gym and patios. WSR Individuals still have access to the Yard, but no Gym access due to using the Gym for Isolation.

Question 4

I'm hearing tier rep meetings don't seem to be happening. With that being said they are unable to bring issues or concerns to these meetings. Would there be a way to make sure meetings are being held and send any reports from to the kiosk machine as other OCO reports are being sent?

Answer

Our CUS's are still required to meet with tier reps. Our problem of having a facility tier rep meeting with the Superintendent is due to the need for co-horting. It is likely we may have to move forward with having a separate meeting with each of the units. This is still a work in progress.

Question 5

Tuesday night C units didn't get out for movement till 6:45 when they are normally out at 6. With that being said, there were other individuals out and had stayed on the phones. Which they call several people again and again, sometimes staying for at least an hour. Which makes other individuals frustrated they are unable to call their loved ones due almost having movement later. Is it possible to add more phones as phones were added in the gym for quarantine? This would not only help the morale of everyone but more individuals would be able to call their families.

Answer

There were no shift operations that interfered with movement on WSR C unit. I have forwarded this concern on to the C unit CUS. We have asked that the units keep the numbers of individuals out on the phones, showers, JPay and microwave down to 20 at a time.

Question 6

Are the weekly COVID notes also being pushed out to the kiosk machines for the individuals to be updated on information?

Answer

I'll try to make an effort to do that. The notes are sent for publication on the unit bulletin boards and provided to tier reps. I will get the minutes on the bulletin board give hard copies to the tier reps.

Question 7

Have the rules for sending in pictures via Jpay changed drastically recently? I have recently sent two pictures to my partner and both have been rejected (one stating that my clothing was see-through - which it wasn't, everything was covered, and one stating that my clothing did not comply with visit guidelines). Since when has this become a rule? I was under the impression that as long as certain parts of my body was covered, understandably, then it was ok. I have had many pictures censored by the mailroom for absurd reasons - some of which have been pretty offensive- and we just don't understand why it keeps happening or if the rules changed without us being informed? I've heard that some others are facing problems with this too. My partner appealed, but to no avail.

Answer

What I will do is publish the [visiting guidelines](#). It would be helpful when asking for specific information related to a mail rejection if you are able to provide the rejection notice number.

Information and Update Notes

- An email came out from Superintendent Jackson regarding Blake vs State informing the incarcerated that DOC Headquarters is working with the Attorney General who is also working with the various Prosecutor Offices throughout the State and will provide direction if there are changes to incarcerated individuals' sentence structure.
- Comfort packages were received and distributed to individuals at all MCC facilities.
- Kaela Chong did paper hugs with photo at MSU for their family and have sent them out. Next unit to participate will be SOU.
- George Turcin said there are two documents coming up for review. One is the family service guide on how to get assistance and the policy on family services is up for review. We are hoping to get family council input. You can participate or give input into the process. Please give your input to dmtaylor@do1.wa.gov by March 10th. An email was sent separately to the family council members.

Additional Questions.

Comment

Breakfast before work has improved this week and gave my loved time to eat.

Question 1

I read surgical masks will be mandatory starting next week. Can you tell me more about it?

Answer

Employees were directed to wear surgical masks at all times a while ago. Now it will be required for the population as the surgical masks are the disposable paper masks with nose wire. We are working on the details of getting them out. These are the type hospitals wear and come in blue and other colors. Everyone will have the same masks and expectations.

Comment

Thanks for the team for doing a good job to get everyone off quarantine in such a timely manner. Everyone is doing a great job.

Question 2

We were charged for a video visit with my loved one and were charged for the call. Would it be because the call was in another country?

Answer

I suggest you contact JPay and ask for the free visit.

The following comments were from Family Members - February 28 will be the last day for free video visits. When making a video call, you click on the name, it will have a price come up. If it says there is a charge, it will charge you. You have to click on it when there is no charge to get the free visit.

Question 3

Can you tell me about the clinics for vaccinations?

Answer

We did not get the vaccine we were expecting so we had to cancel this week's vaccination clinic. A rescheduled vaccine clinic for WSR will be 3/8/21.

Question 4

Will there be consequences for not getting the vaccine?

Answer

That is a good question. I would imagine they would be voluntary. I will have to get more information and get back to you.

Question 5

Does anyone know what is happening with the normal visits?

Answer

Normal video visits will continue. We don't know when regular visiting will happen, I will share information as soon as I receive guidance.

Question 6

Can you tell us about the meeting at 1 pm today with Deputy Director Jeneva Cotton?

Answer

The meeting was about how to do our teleconferences using "Teams" and about not sharing email addresses. It is still the intention of having the LFC meetings when we are back to visiting as more people are able to attend.

Question 7

If your loved one was COVID Positive, what is the expectation on getting the vaccine and when after recovery can the individual be vaccinated?

Answer

Individuals that previously tested positive are still eligible. They have to be off isolation in order to get the vaccine.

Comment

Thank you for keeping my loved one safe. When you get your chance, I encourage you to get the vaccine as it will save lives.

Question 8

I volunteered for the committee for Family Service Guide and there will be 6 people on the work group and there will be additional information coming for the work group. The Family Service Guide is on the DOC website and available to assist the families/loved ones of newly incarcerated individuals. This guide assists interested parties in learning what services are available.

Answer

This is a good thing to participate and to get some answers. Thank you for helping with this.

Question 9

When an individual gets the vaccine, will the person still be subject to quarantine or isolation?

Answer

Technically yes, until cleared by medical. This decision will be made by Health Services after a review of the specific individuals medical presentation and characteristics.