

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 4/23/2021, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

Lynn barker
Felix D'Allesandro
Caryl Darby
Diane Durall
Laynara Ferriera
Melody Grandshaw
Angela Hinton
Josephine Johnson
Diana Knesek
Cait Moore
Ron O'Neil
Diane Pasta
Joanne Todd
Emma Westerman
Rachael Symon
Traci Collier
Terry Cohn
Bill Frantz
Pete Maxson
Mark Miller
Melida Ferrell
Dominica Campbell
Matthias Gyde
Ina McNeese
Kathleen Bechler

Weekly Update

We currently have 1 confirmed case at our COVID unit in the IMU. Zero general population living units are on quarantine status. MCC has had a total of 552 Incarcerated/Violators with confirmed COVID

To date, MCC has had 148 confirmed staff cases, an increase of 3 since our last meeting on 4/9.

EIP Stimulus checks / EIP cards

Trust Account Manager Dan Lewis has been communicating with the IRS agents and the State Attorney General Office to arrive at all decisions regarding the EIP Visa Cards. He also worked with Tracy Schneider who is Manager over all State prison facility mailrooms.

All State prison facilities Business office and mailroom staff were provided specific direction regarding handling of these items.

1st Stimulus check \$1200 was subject to full DOC deductions.

2nd Stimulus check \$600 was subject to no deductions. (Initially PLRA deductions were taken and HQ refunded those on 4/6/21)

IF received as EIP card: If ERD is before May 31, 2021 the card was sent to records for distribution in release packet. All others received for an incarcerated individual were returned to the IRS. Business office tracked these cards.

3rd Stimulus check \$1400 is subject to full DOC deductions.

IF received as EIP card: All cards are immediately returned to IRS by Business Office. Mailroom is tracking these cards. IRS has stated that all 3rd EIP cards returned would be replaced with a check.

Cable

Cable updates: Comcast has offered to have a technician come out and look things over with DOC maintenance to assist in the upgrade. Quality of image on the system with emergency funding to resolve the issues. Work is in progress, but I don't have a completion date as of yet.

*Update – I learned today that as we install the equipment up-grade we are finding worn or damaged cable and fiber optic. Work continues as cabling is replaced.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

What is the status on the band room opening back up, since the weight decks are going to open?

Answer

Weight decks will be managed through call out at MSU to start on May 3rd. WSRU, TRU and SOU have recreation officers so will not be using call out system for weight decks and can use it when it is their turn for the gym.

The question of music room has been sent to Incident Command, but I have not had or a date yet. Access will be determined by co-hort.

Question 2

A Report has been coming out of Headquarters and MCC has a delay in Jpay and the mail being processed into the facility. What is the reason for this?

Answer

MCC has a large amount of mail to process.

The number of e-messages pending approval as current today (Friday April 23):

Inbound Jpay 58 Photos 264 37 VideoGram

Outbound Jpay 161 Photos 196 0 VideoGram

In the last 30 days MCC has released (processed) a total of 188,812 or 7,867 a day from the facility to outside addresses.

Also to consider, drugs continue to be found in first class mail trying to get in the facility through the mailroom and every time this occurs, staff resources are diverted for evidence processing and slows down completion of other duties. MCC has 6 assigned staff to the Mail Room.

Question 3

Can you give us an update on visiting?

Answer

Visits could start in early May and staff are being trained on Visit processing. There was a training session on scheduling with a second training session being done today. I have met with visiting staff and we are getting prepared for when visiting starts. The decision on the starting date comes from Headquarters.

Additional Questions

Question 1

Spice drugs are coming into the facility. What kind of action will be taken against those who are taking the drugs? Do they automatically go to segregation?

Answer

If an incarcerated individual appears as impaired, we will conduct a Urinalysis test. If Positive with no other security issues, they would remain at the facility and go through the infraction process. If they refused a drug test, they would get infracted for that which carries the same weight as a positive U/A, so there would be no benefit for refusal. Segregation is used if there is a safety risk to population or staff. Even though we are utilizing the IMU as a COVID Unit/Violator Unit there are segregation beds to use when needed. The process has not changed much.

Question 2

Is the GTE Contract on phones coming to an end? For a week and a half the phones were not working and there is also problems with the volume.

Answer

The GTL contract is not final, but the population will be able to transfer from general funds to their phone accounts. GTL still comes out to fix the phones as needed.

Question 3

The Department is publishing the number of days it takes to process the e-messages on JPay. What does the days pending mean? Is each electronic email read?

Answer

“Days Pending” refers to messages that have been held over for further review. Each facility has developed a list of flagged words that will automatically place messages that include those words in a queue for further review.

Comment:

The quarterly IIBF meeting will be on April 29th. SFC Rep. Felix D’Allesandro will send out the information to the family council.

Question 4

Photographs take a long time to arrive, but starting last week, the mail has slowed down with no flagged items. What is the reason for delay?

Answer

We had 2000 photos processed in a week. Run on sentences and something with XOXOXO could be flagged by the computer. If it is flagged there will be a delay. We can’t estimate how much mail will come in at a time. We will try to come up with a list common phrases and run on sentences that are flagged.

Question 5

For the free Jpay visit do we get one or two week per week? I get my visit and then I have to wait for it to reset.

Answer

I don’t know, but I think it is 2 per week, but I don’t know the answer to that. One council member provided that she has had to be very persistent in order to get JPay to provide the 2nd free visit.

Question 6

The Cable TV improvements are in the works. Can some pay for a higher package to get more channels?

Answer

No, everyone has the same package. There will also be intermittent delays when they are working on the system.

Question 7

When a video visit is terminated in the process is there notification? Can I schedule another visit?

Answer

If there is a violation JPAY can terminate the call. You should be able to reschedule the visit.

Question 8

Mail sometimes gets returned for some reason, but they don't let you know the reason why. Is there a way to let them know why?

Answer

Please send an email as to the person who is having this issue and we can review the issue.

Question 9

When does the change-over take place to get new JPay players. Is it sooner or should I order a new one?

Answer

I will try to find out when. Please send me an email so I can get back to you.

Question 10

My loved one and I are buying a house. I have a list of pictures and details to review. Is this allowed? And if visits are terminated, are they reviewed.

Answer

Sending pictures of homes is fine, but what is not allowed are addresses or maps. When video visits are terminated, a report is generated and sent to the facility for review. Recently, HQ asked Jpay to be more discerning when an inadvertent showing of a cell phone or some mishap occurs before terminating the visit..

Question 11

We have a ton of people on the visit list. How many people are allowed on the video visit? How do I get my grandchild, who is on the visit list, on a video visit?

Answer

Minor children must be accompanied by an approved sponsor. All participants must be on the Visiting list. As to number of Visitors, I have to do some checking.

Question 12

On the subject of illegal drugs, do I need to worry about drugs being sold to my son from the inside? He is at SOU.

Answer

I know of the unit your son is assigned. It is not likely this will occur and historically has not been an issue.

Question 13

It has been very hot in education and teachers have been letting the students go early. Will they be working on the heat to get it fixed?

Answer

Captain Frantz provided that this is a known issue and stated that we are putting in new grill gates and fans to bring cooler air into the building. Maintenance is working on a fix, but it is still a work in progress.

Comments/Closing

Thanks everyone. Have a safe weekend see you in two weeks.