

Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Details

Facility: Monroe Correctional Complex

Date and Time: 1/6/2022, 1pm – 2pm

Attendees

Joanne Todd – Co-Chair

Kim Day

Dianne Durall

Bruce Glant

Joanne Glant

Angela Hinton

Diana Knesek

Ron O’Neil

Diane Pasta

Ryan Swanek

Program Specialist Monica Ritter

Program Director Jeremy Barclay

Program Specialist Page Perkinson

Superintendent Dan White

Superintendent Jack Warner

Associate Superintendent John Padilla

Associate Superintendent Michele Wood

CPM Terry Cohn

CPM Rick Geer

CI Manager Ron Klamert

CUS Leslie O’Connor

Captain Bill Frantz

Captain Dan Allen

Captain Ina McNeese

Heather Hamilton - OCO

Heather Trenk

Kathleen Bechler, AA3

Informational Call Update

MCC TRU remains on Outbreak Status. There have been 67 incarcerated individuals who have tested positive for COVID in the last 30 days. MCC has had a total of 743 COVID positive incarcerated individuals to date.

MCC has had a total of 284 confirmed staff cases over the course of the pandemic.

Due to MCC on outbreak status, we have tested 100 % of the population.

Isolation and Quarantine Units

TRU

TRU A, B and D Units remain on Quarantine. We are hopeful they will be released from quarantine today.

SOU

2 Individuals from SOU B unit tested positive, as well as 1 individual from E unit who worked as a porter on B unit. As a result, SOU B unit is on limited area outbreak/quarantine and E unit is also on quarantine.

These tests were the result of mass MCC testing that occurred last weekend. Per the outbreak checklist, SOU B Unit and E Unit are all being tested again. We finished testing SOU B unit last night and E unit this morning.

WSRU

A Unit – Now off quarantine.

B Unit- Currently housing recovered Individuals from TRU. These Individuals have had job screenings and are eligible for work.

C Unit – Previously housed positive asymptomatic Individuals. This was an Isolation Unit and is now closed.

IMU COVID Unit

IMU Continues to house both COVID positive and Quarantine Individuals on separate Pods.

We have had many individuals complete their subscribed quarantine, but unfortunately there is no clean unit to return them to.

TRU E Unit

This was a 20 bed unit that we used for COVID positive and symptomatic individuals. This unit is now closed.

SOU

Last weekend we conducted mass COVID testing for all MCC incarcerate. As a result, we found 2 individuals from SOU B unit and 1 from SOU E unit tested positive. The individual from E Unit was a porter who worked on B unit. B Unit is now on a limited area cluster and quarantine, along with E unit on quarantine. Per the COVID 19 Outbreak checklist which requires retesting within 24 hours, B unit individuals were retested last night and E unit individuals were retested today. All will be tested again in 7 days.

[Question 1](#)

GTL have now made it a rule that persons residing overseas cannot put money on the phone account of their loved ones unless they have a US issued card/credit card. It's getting increasingly difficult for persons overseas. Whilst I put money on my account, there are times when my loved one has to call children from a prior relationship, so he needs money on his phone. How can we look into this - it's much the same as the food package concern? I thank all those who help me with food packages.

Answer

I am working on this with IIU Section. Chief Investigator Maria Angel will look into this. Hopefully we will have resolution.

Question 2

My love one is complaining about the heat at TRU. Can you give us an update on the heat situation?

Answer

TRU heat is an approved Capital Project. Although we lost a lot of our maintenance staff due to the vaccination mandate, we have seen an improvement and continue to work on it. The heating system pushes warm air through the pipe and it gets cooler as the air travels down the vents. Captain Frantz will have the temperature taken to make sure there is heat.

Question 3

Can Space heaters be distributed on the unit to keep them warm?

Answer

All those heaters would trip the electrical system and would make it unsafe for the population.

Question 4

Can they block the cold air from coming in the vents?

Answer

The law prevents us from blocking the vents because it would cause all kinds of problems, so we are not able to authorize.

Question 5

With the building being made of steel and concrete, can we give the population the new 6 inch mattresses to give them more insulation from the cold?

Answer

CUS Geer said they have the first shipment of the mattresses at TRU and started to distribute them starting on B unit by priority of necessity.

Comment

The Ombuds are here visiting with us and walking around IMU, SOU and TRU. Superintendent White said they are always welcome. Heather Hamilton from the OCO is on the conference with us.

Question 6

I had 4 books sent on December 9th and my loved one still has not received them.

Answer

The post office had 2 days that they didn't deliver due to inclement weather and there were two days with no pick-up due to staff being out. We had 4 boxes delivered on Monday and they were sent out

on Wednesday. They might not have received them if they were on quarantine and will get them when they get back to their unit.

Question 7

The population on A unit is stuck indoors with not being able to get to the yard very often.

Answer

With the staffing shortages and inclement weather it has been harder to get as much time in the yard. The yard has been open with the Tower officers having oversight to get them out as often as we can when staff are not available.

Question 8

Can you send an email out to the LFC when TRU Comes off Quarantine.

Answer

Yes, We send a notice to the population with instructions and also to staff and we can certainly share that with you.

Question 9

When will visiting open up?

Answer

I looked that the TRU visiting schedule for Saturday 1/8/22 and there were no visits scheduled. Keep checking the website. It is important that visiting open up as soon as possible as visits are important.

When visiting is cancelled DOC is good at letting the families know.

Question 10

Do we have to wait until the end of the month to schedule next months visits?

Answer

I will reach out to schedulers to find out. You are allowed to schedule 2 visits and then submit another request for the next visit after that.

Question 11

Why does it take so long to get visits and why is headquarters involved in the process?

Answer

Headquarters gives each facility a template to follow for visiting to ensure that each facility is the same, and having equal time for visits. The Superintendent can make exceptions when necessary.

Question 12

Can a person who is traveling from out of state schedule a special visit?

Answer

Yes, Headquarters has an application for special visits and arrangements for the visit are made before the visit. Visits are run through Assoc. Supt. Padilla's office, who works with Headquarters and schedulers to ensure the visits go smoothly.

Question 13

I heard that EFV Visits are cancelled until COVID Omicron is gone. Is this true?

Answer

The suspension of EFV's is through the end of January. I don't know if there will be an extension.

Question 14

How will the return of property of those going back to TRU be handled?

Answer

We are using all resources to get property back and will get everything back in as timely a manner as possible. The property that was taken over with them will be brought back with them. We will work out a system for the I/I's to come and get their property.

Question 15

Why was my loved one at IMU so long once recovered?

Answer

IMU COVID unit has a problem with 20 Incarcerated Individuals who had recovered with no place to send them as they could not go back to their original housing as the unit all had to have 3 negative tests. We have the document to get TRU off Quarantine. Once TRU is off quarantine, they can move back.

Comments/Closing

Thank you everyone. We will be back to Fridays starting next week.