

Statewide Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

**Some questions were grouped together as they were asked by more than one person.
If specific questions about individuals were asked, they were removed.
If you have specific questions about your loved one, please contact your local facility.**

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Call Details

Facility: Statewide Family Council
Date and Time: 06/26/2020 at 2:00 PM

Attendees

- Suzanne Cook, SFC Family Co-Chair
- Jeneva Cotton, SFC DOC Co-Chair
- Rhonda Roberts, SFC DOC Secretary
- Lisa Flynn, HQ
- Dawn Taylor, HQ
- Paige Perkinson, HQ
- Leslie Redic, CCCC
- Stephanie Biedman, CRCC
- Felix D'Allesandro, MCC
- Susan Cooksey, SCCC
- Jason Rice, WCCW
- Wendy Dubinsky, WSP

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1

If the protocol is to be hypervigilant with hygiene, how can DOC make a policy that only allows a shower every 7 days for those on 24 hour lockdown in the hole (medical isolation) due to testing positive for covid or while awaiting a double negative covid test?

Answer

Not all medical isolation areas are in restrictive housing; it depends on the facility. Jeneva reached out to the Clinical Leadership to provide more clear information regarding the 7-day requirement for showers for those on medical isolation. The answer provided is as follows:

“Those patients that are symptomatic and awaiting test results or are positive with COVID-19 should not be in contact with others during the highest time of shedding the disease. Strict separation is occurring in hospitals where patients are not allowed out of their rooms; in the public communities, people who are symptomatic or COVID-19 positive are asked to remain in their homes. Both in hospital rooms and community settings, people have access to showers without leaving. Unfortunately prisons were not designed for a pandemic and most incarcerated individuals share shower areas and do not have them in their individual cells. The intention with medical isolation is to keep those individuals away from others during the initial, contagious shedding period, to greatly reduce the chances of the virus being spread to others. At this time, we will continue to utilize the 7-day shower protocol for those on medical isolation.

Question 2

WSP now has another incarcerated individual that has tested positive for Covid-19. Does DOC have a plan for contact tracing and testing where these outbreaks occur? When will this begin?

Answer

The process that occurs is: once an individual is reported as symptomatic, they are immediately given PPE and assessed by a medical professional. This is when the contact mapping begins. Symptomatic individuals will be placed onto medical isolation until cleared per our COVID protocols. All individuals who are placed on medical isolation and quarantine will be COVID-19 tested.

Question 3

AHCC has requested yard time for our high-risk unit (K-unit) we would like to have options to give these guys more actual yard time. AHCC has sent in a few proposals and everything has been denied. What other options can we have to get these guys more outside time?

Answer

HQ received a request for yard time for K-unit on 06/24. On that date, it was approved for K Unit to have specialized yard time separate from the rest of the population

Question 4

In regards to 6164, do all the facilities have a set up so the inmates can work with the prosecutor's offices remotely and effectively utilize options that are available in regards to resentencing?

Answer

Each facility has a plan for providing legal services to individuals housed in isolation and quarantine. In most facilities, the Law Librarian makes regular visits to the units in question to provide legal services to the individuals. This consists of notary services and ensuring that individuals with a deadline are being given priority access for e-filing, photocopies and legal mail pertaining to active cases. In addition to that, the Law Librarian provides forms and legal research material to those individuals on priority access. Requests made by individuals who do not currently have a deadline are being fulfilled as time allows.

Question 5

Recently CRCC is now testing its employees because of the outbreak, can we get all RCF and any facility with positive cases to also test all employees every 7 days?

Answer

These discussions are occurring with the Executive Team. No decisions have been made.

Additional Questions

Leslie: No questions.

Stephanie: No questions; however, voiced concerns regarding ongoing issues being expressed by those at CRCC to include access to mental health services, daily health checks, time out of cells, bathroom issues, kite issues, and commissary issues.

Felix: Asked about efforts made by DOC to diffuse tension amongst the population with weather getting warmer, less programs, etc. Shared that all facilities have purchased additional games and materials for the population, recreation areas are open at all facilities other than CRCC currently,

and that if someone has additional ideas within the population, to please share with their Tier Reps, as Tier Rep meetings continue to occur.

Susan: Asked about Tier Rep notes being shared with LFCs – Paige responded that Tier Rep notes related to COVID-19 response can be shared with LFCs. Jeneva will ensure facilities are aware of this.

Jason: No questions.

Wendy: Asked about COVID-19 testing at WSP. Jeneva discussed the updated protocols to include testing individuals who are placed onto quarantine (in addition to those on medical isolation).

Suzanne: No questions. Discussed agenda creation for July 18th SFC virtual meeting.

Comments/Closing

- Next SFC Informational Call on Friday, July 10th at 2:00 PM
- Jeneva emailed Portia Hinton, who has agreed to be the acting WCC Rep to the SFC