Call Details

Facility: 
Date and Time: 01/27/22, 1:00 pm
Next Meeting: 02/03/22, 1:00 pm

Attendees
- Bill Swain, Jay Jackson, Brian MacDowell, Gerald Bailey, Mike Eby, Rachel Stenberg, Jennifer Allmendinger
- Amy Miller, Carol Welch, Emijah Smith, Felix D’Allesandro, Helen Russell, Wendy Schindler, Jasmine Bernardez, Tamara Light

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1
When will DOC treat covid as a "common cold?"
I understand no one wants to catch it and/or get sick, but this has been going on for two years now. Whether EFV/Visits are suspended or not our loved ones and ourselves will still catch it regardless of vaccination status. It's clear suspended visits don't really prevent anything, but causes more stress, anxiety, and confusion for our loved ones.
  - They are stressed about not seeing their family.
  - They have anxiety because they don't know when the pandemic will ever end and
  - Confused because regardless of vaccination status people are still catching covid.

Answer
We are following the CDC guideline and the advisement of DOC Medical team.

Question 2
Why are people in quarantine longer than the quarantine period? especially after a person hasn't tested positive. For example, a person who went on quarantine December 26th and never tested positive why would they still be quarantined, and their unit is cleared?

Answer
Forwarded to Jessica Crabtree for a response.

There is not a unit in the facility that is currently “cleared” or unaffected by this outbreak. There are a few areas that are approaching the end of their quarantine, however, even if they do clear from quarantine, it is unlikely that they will be able to return to their prior unit until that area is also cleared from quarantine. Those who are still susceptible to contracting COVID19 should not be moved from an area that is cleared from quarantine (where there is little to no risk of contracting COVID19) to an area that is under active quarantine and continues to produce positive cases (where there is very high risk of contracting COVID19).

Additionally, there is no one who is currently in quarantine longer than their quarantine time. If an individual is housed on a tier that continues to produce positive cases, every time someone turns positive and is removed from the area, due to shared space/air, the day that individual is moved, is considered date of most recent exposure. Date of most recent exposure is also identified as Day 0 of quarantine for those left behind in that area. Those who have been on quarantine for longer periods of time, are living in areas where individuals have continued to develop COVID19.
Question 3
My son, Felix D’Allesandro 869392, was moved to R6-D3. There are three men to every cell. Does that mean one person is sleeping on the floor (known as a “rug”) or, are there beds for each man?

Answer
Individuals are issued a mattress, however if requested they can be issued a second mattress for those on the floor.

Question 4
My husband wanted to know if the weight equipment which is currently in the gym where it can’t be used possibly be moved to the population yard so it can be accessible?

Answer
As I/I’s must pay to lift weights, it would be very difficult to monitor who was using the equipment, equipment accountability between yards, sanitation of equipment, impact of more direct exposure to weather conditions resulting in equipment deterioration if it was moved to the yard and staff being available to monitor for compliance. Plus, weights would have to be made available to the Upper R-Unit I/I’s.

Additional Questions

Question 1
When they are cleared to go back to their unit, are they being forced to take positions they do not want to work in?

Answer
The facility is on outbreak status and some individuals have been cleared for work. On a temporary basis COVID Recovered individuals are required to work. CI is an area that has been cleared for work, which consists of Food Service, Laundry and Warehouse. We have to keep the facility running. It is a serious infraction if they refuse to work. When the facility is cleared and areas open up, workers can go back to the positions they had before. Other facilities do not have workers who can help fill those required positions and have staff coming in from other facilities to help fill those positions.

Question 2
It’s been 30 days and my loved one is still not clear.

Answer
A person could be in contact with someone who has tested positive. The start time is reset 14 more days.

Question 3
Isn’t moving around the cause of the spreading?

Answer
The number one thing we need to do is separate as fast as possible. This process is extensive and constant. We are swabbing between 500 to 700 individuals daily. As soon as one comes back positive we identify and isolate. Individuals are lockdown, but staff are not

Question 4
If they have ordered store before they are moved, will they get their store?
Answer
Their store is being sent over to R5 to be issued.

Question 5
Why can’t they communicate with their families?
Answer
The units they are being moved to are not set up like Cedar and Evergreen. They do not have the same access. They are allowed to take their JPay with them when they move to keep up with e-mails and messages, but unable to keep them charged.

Question 6
I am being told that the phones are being turned off as a group punishment. Are they being turned off?
Answer
A reply from Don Dean
Yes, C/D tier has been taking the handheld up the tier today. I turned off the phones till it was recovered.

Question 7
Can you tell us what kind of meals they are getting and how it is prepared?
Answer
A reply from Food Service
- Breakfast - Cold boat, premade, purchased from AHCC, fruit
- Lunch - Hot, either TV Tray or clamshell with either Carrots or Celery, fruit, juice, salt, pepper & cookie/bar or muffin
- Dinner - Hot, either TV Tray or clamshell with lettuce, salad dressing, fruit, juice, salt, pepper

Question 8
How are the tests being administered?
Answer
- A swab is presented to them incased in a paper sleeve.
- They swab their own nose and put the swab in a vile that contains a liquid.
- It is then put onto a testing strip and is checked after a 15 minute wait period.
- The individual is present during this process.

Question 9
Will they still receive their quarterly food package if they are on quarantine?
Answer
A reply from Patrick Wheeler
Here is a quote from Lonn Turner about the FPP’s.

Hello all,

As we approach the end of the current FPP, we wanted you all to know that the catalog and order form request has been made, and once we have an ETA on those, we'll let all the teams know. In the meantime, and since the program menu will not be changing, you can use the attached PDF order forms until the new ones arrive.

We thank you all for your support of this valuable program, which allows friends and families to stay connected through these purchases for their loved ones.
Take care and stay safe, from the entire package program team.

Comments/Closing

- Lisa Flynn has sent out invitations out to the Representatives to meet Monday and go over the Incarcerated Individuals Betterment Fund and how to spend the surplus money. Please send any ideas on how to spend this money to Felix D’Allesandro.
- Pre-Submitted questions – Please have your questions in on Wednesday at 3 pm.
- Bill will talk to Dean Mason about attending the next meeting to introduce himself to new members.