Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details
Facility: WCC
Date and Time: 02/03/22, 1:00 pm
Next Meeting: 02/10/22, 1:00 pm

Attendees
• Melinda Kupers, Bill Swain, Jay Jackson, Justin Wozab, Gerald Bailey, Mike Eby, Monica Ritter, Rachel Stenberg, Page Perkinson, Aulakh, Harj, Jennifer Allmendinger,
• Amy Miller, Carol Welch, Curt Schindler, Emijah Smith, Felix D’Allesandro, Helen Russell, Kristi Keller, Wendy Schindler, Jasmine Bernardez, Tamara Light

Weekly Update
• Data
  o WCC is on Outbreak Status as of December 25, 2022
  o 211 tests are pending
  o Evergreen tested 2/2/22
  o Cedar will test on 2/4/22
• Health/Medical
  o There has been 1,009 positive cases as of 09:30 2/3/22
  o 671 cases have recovered
  o 323 are currently active
  o As of today, there is 1 new positive case
  o 1 positive case from R3
  o 1 positive case from R4

Pre-Submitted Questions

Question 1
When someone is "recovered," what is the protocol for returning them from Medical Isolation?

Answer
Please read the DOC COVID-19 at Corrections to answer questions regarding the protocols being followed at WCC.
Here is a link to that page:
• https://doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/default.htm

Question 2
Why are people in quarantine longer than the quarantine period? especially after a person hasn't tested. What is the status on adding incarcerated individuals back on the WCC rolls so that they can receive JPAY emails, and we can order the quarterly packages for them? Those who are moved to Medical Isolation or Quarantine disappear from the DOC/WCC rolls as though they are not at WCC.

Answer
• Those that are moved are dropped from JPAY because the units they are moved to do not have that capability.
• R4 and R5 do not have a kiosk
• R6 is unable to have JPAY until there is a signed contract.
• The IMU is not operational for JPAY
Question 3
Why are those on Medical Isolation in R-6 being required to wear R-6 jumpsuits?
Answer
They are put into jumpsuits to have operational consistency. R6 houses other individuals besides those from Evergreen and Cedar. It is a quick easy way to identify what unit someone is from.

Question 4
What is being done to get individuals in Medical Isolation outside at least an hour each day as would be the case for those in seg.?
Answer
You can refer to the guidelines:
Those that are isolated are not allowed to go outside the unit. This is medical protocol.

Additional Questions
Question 1
My son was moved to R6 and his mail was rejected.
Answer
Kupers spoke to Sgt. Edgington regarding mail for those that have moved from Evergreen/Cedar due to COVID. Sgt. Edginton states that his team is trying their best to keep up with those that have been moved and to not reject their items and place them in their property instead.

Question 2
Is there a way families can complain to JPay about not taking COVID into consideration and allowing JPay in the other units?
Answer
Communicate your concerns to the company. A new contract would need to be signed and it would be a statewide contract and not just for WCC.

Question 3
There is a lot of movement. Is the same thing happening in the other units?
Answer
We continue to have positive cases. We are taking them out and moving to R6. When isolation is medically cleared, they are returned to their units.

Question 4
Our loved ones feel threatened that if they refuse to go to work that they will be shipped out.
Answer
If they are cleared to work they will be assigned. We have to keep the facility working. This question was answered last week. Please read the minutes from last week. If they refuse to work they will receive a major infraction. There has been no discussion about shipping anyone out because they refused to work.
Question 5
They have been working 14 hours that is mandatory. This is causing anxiety, being traumatized, stressed, and having panic attacks. My son is afraid he can’t work 14 hours. Is there a more kinder way to communicate what is expected?

Answer
- Nobody is working those kind of hours in any single work area. Right now, we do have workers who are volunteering in other areas and are coming close to 14 hours
- There has been communication about it through the kiosk.
- It was made clear to unit staff and Sgts. when an infraction would be written. It wouldn’t be for oversleeping. They would be told where they are to report and if they refused to work in any of the locations mentioned then there would be an infraction for refusing to work.
- Those who are COVID recovered are clear to work.
  - COVID recovered would be a negative PCR test result after 90 days
  - If showing symptoms, a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) would be given.
  - A RAT would be given 2 times per week for up to 90 days.

Question 6
I received a message from someone from CPS who needed to do a CPS assessment on an incarcerated parent and tried calling the main line and no one answered the phone. I also tried to call in and no one picked up the phone.

Answer
Kupers will check into the reason why no one answered the line. The line was tested, and it is working. We have not had any other reports of an outage.

Question 7
Is there a policy regarding medical?

Answer
- There is a 30 page document that is available to read in the unit.
- Melinda Kupers and Gerald Bailey were in the unit today to answer any questions in Evergreen and Cedar.

Question 8
Are people who are positive and housed together being separated?

Answer
- The new process is that if there are 2 people housed together that are positive, they will be separated.
- Individuals that are not positive will be separated.
- COVID Recovered and be housed by themselves, with someone who is also COVID recovered, or with an individual who has not tested positive.

We realize it is very stressful. We are now separating them to insure we stop the spread. Once they are cleared they will go back to their unit.

Question 9
Have people been informed about the money being put on their phone account and JPay?

Answer
If headquarters puts something out they take care of the kiosk message and send correspondence to be posted.
Question 10
Are staff being tested?
Answer
Staff are being tested. Currently since we are on outbreak status, staff are being tested twice a week. If someone had COVID within 90 days, they are getting a Rapid Antigen Test done 2 times a week. Everyone else gets a PCR test done 2 times a week until we are out of outbreak status.

Question 11
I was told there is someone in R6 that was never tested positive from Evergreen. If true, why would this be?
Answer
A person would go to R6 to be quarantined if a roommate had tested positive. Quarantine time would start over if someone in quarantine tests positive.

Question 12
Are those being moved given the opportunity to choose a roommate or are they being shuffled by staff?
Answer
Staff determine where they will be moved. There isn’t much choice, but if they can make that change, then that request could be accommodated. In Cedar they are mostly celled by themselves. So far there has been no complaints. There are still some moves that need to be made.

Question 13
If they are cleared to move from R6, they won’t go back to Evergreen until Evergreen is clear?
Answer
Once they are medically cleared, they can go back to the unit.

Question 14
Who is packing up their stuff?
Answer
If they haven’t packed up their stuff, then officer are packing it up. It is put into boxes and marked who it belongs too. Each individual has their own area assigned to them to put their things. Their things are taken out of the cell because someone else could move in temporarily. When they come back their things are put back in the cell.

Comments/Closing
- 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.
- Frequently Asked Questions from the Office of Corrections Ombuds: Office of Corrections Ombuds | Washington State Department of Corrections
- https://doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/default.htm
- The next COVID LFC meeting will be 2/10/22 at 1:00 pm.