Local Family Council COVID-19 Informational Call Notes

Call Details
Facility: Washington Corrections Center for Women
Date and Time: 01/13/2022 10:00 am
  • Superintendent Charlotte Headley, Associate Superintendent of Programs Karin Arnold, Health Services Manager 1, Casey Carlson, AA4 Melissa Johnson, A

Weekly Update
  • Data
    o Current facility numbers, including pregnant women and babies? Current population 534 plus 7 babies.
    o WCCW has had confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the incarcerated population. As of this morning, HQ reports that WCCW has 32 new employee cases and 107 new incarcerated individual cases.
    o Positive Cases have been found in Medium Security Unit (MSU), Closed Custody Unit (CCU), and K-Unit on the minimum-security compound.
    o WCCW has already started testing the entire population. Following protocol due to the positive COVID-19 tests and the associated quarantined cases that go with them, we have reached a point in time in which we will have to take additional steps to limit the potential exposure of COVID-19 to the WCCW incarcerated population. This includes opening the gym, RCF, and L unit so that we can best treat your loved ones.
  • Health/Medical
    o Washington State Department of Corrections defines an outbreak as a group of confirmed cases of COVID-19 that includes at least one incarcerated individual.
      ▪ Limited Area Outbreak
        ▪ Two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in incarcerated individuals occurring within 14 days who reside in the same living area or work release OR
        ▪ One or more confirmed cases of COVID in an incarcerated individual AND one or more confirmed cases of COVID in staff or volunteers working in proximity to the incarcerated individual case/cases occurring within 14 days.
      ▪ Facility Wide Outbreak
        ▪ Two or more Limited Area Outbreaks that are connected, occurring simultaneously in the same facility.
        ▪ 380 individuals have been fully vaccinated (73%), 13 (2.5%) are partially vaccinated. 155 (30%) of our population have received their booster,
    o Numbers in isolation/quarantine? Please refer to DOC website for more information: statewide numbers show there are 648 individuals on isolation and 2,680 individuals on quarantine. We are unable to give specific data as to WCCW.
    o Numbers tested? We test everyone that comes into the facility via intake twice. Everyone who presents with symptoms twice and anyone who is on quarantine twice. We are also testing every staff 2x weekly.

Pre-Submitted Questions
Question 1
Medical/Quarantine Procedure: Where will women who have tested positive be housed?
Answer
- They are housed throughout the facility to include the gym, Regional Care Facility (RCF), Z building the clinic and L unit.

Question 2
What quarantine requirements will be updated to reflect new CDC guidance?
Answer
- We need clarification, don’t understand the question

Question 3
What are the current quarantine procedures and guidance?
Answer
- WCCW follows the WA State COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline Version 29. The purpose of this guidance document is to allow the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) to better respond to the emerging COVID-19 outbreak. This document covers screening, assessment, testing and infection control of patients housed in Washington DOC facilities. New Information is highlighted and italicized and is provided as an attachment to these notes.
- This information is communicated through the incident command to the living units and law library. The incapacitated individuals also receive bulletins from HQ Joint information Center via kiosk. For those that do not have access to their kiosk get printed copies.
- How will we be assuring this information is shared? We can have unit custody staff log they have read the communications from the incident command.

Question 4
Are you updating the masks that women are wearing?
Answer
- Yes. Incarcerated individuals have access to change their surgical masks on a daily or when soiled basis. They are required to use surgical masks but are allowed to wear their cloth masks to double up if they want to.

Question 5
Programming and living environments. What, if any, programming will continue in the event of a longer-term quarantine, cohort, lockdown?
Answer
- None while under quarantine or lockdown except for shower/dayroom cohorts.

Question 6
What impact will cohorting and or quarantine have on women’s ability to access showers, phones, kiosks, microwaves, dayrooms etc.? is there a plan to ensure necessary work can continue even during cohort and quarantine?
Answer
- Per policy, incarcerated individuals are authorized showers and phones every 72 hours and per the Incident action plan (IAP) cohort by ½ tiers hourly to allow Showers, phones, microwave usage and dayrooms.
- Regarding work, As previously announced through Mike Obenland and Scott Russell/Prisons Health Services Unified Command Incident Commanders through memo dated January 21, 2021, incarcerated
individuals who are unable to work due to the COVID-19 outbreak and related restricted movement can receive a $30 stipend. This message is to clarify that the stipend is only available to individuals who are unable to work. Individuals who chose not to return to work once they are cleared to return, are not eligible to receive the $30 stipend.

- So that the incarcerated individuals don’t become bored, we have provided word games, sudoku, cross word puzzles. Education department has also put together distance learning packets for their students.

Comments/Closing
Next meeting January 20, 2022