



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1110

December 14, 2020

Joanna Carns
Office of Corrections Ombuds
2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear Ms. Carns:

The Washington Department of Corrections appreciates the opportunity to respond to the ‘OCO Monitoring Visit to Stafford Creek Corrections Center on December 8, 2020’ completed by the Office of Corrections Ombuds.

The Department of Corrections takes the health and safety of the incarcerated population and staff in the Washington correctional facilities very seriously. The agency appreciates the opportunity to have your staff tour the Stafford Creek Corrections Center and evaluate the facility’ implementation of the protocols and procedures put in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information provided by the OCO was useful to ensure the Department of Corrections is doing everything it can to protect the incarcerated populations health and safety while incarcerated, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendation	Response
For future DOC outbreaks that a proactive plan is put in place to get incarcerated individuals what they need in order to reduce concerns that may have driven both uses of force and the disturbance.	The department has many strategic plans to have resources available and is in constant communication with State Emergency Operation Center and local logical resources. Due to the entire state experiencing a high rate of COVID-19 outbreak, the timeframes to get these resources has increased. To be mindful of budgets, the department is analyzing situations and ordering resources as needed with a stock to support needs as possible. As an example, the Prisons/Health Services Unified Command (PHSUC) meets with all superintendents several times a week.



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	<p>During one of those meetings in the first week of December 2020, the PHSUC ensured all facilities had placed orders for additional phones for all expanded housing units and began to review what additional resources may be needed to ensure those areas are operational and available, if needed, in a short time period. If additional resources are needed, orders are immediately placed.</p>
<p>One staff on-site reported that as an RN, they were moving all over the compound and it concerned them that it could take days to find out results; if they were positive, they could spread it to many additional persons in the time it took to receive results.</p>	<p>The department is working diligently to acquire additional resources to reduce the need for all staff to move throughout the entire facility to manage daily operation. At this time, the resources have not been located, but conversations continue and the department is aware of the need.</p>
<p>H2 Unit: Breakfast was being served at 10:30, cold. OCO notes that most of these items would likely be unpalatable if cold.</p>	<p>During the initial phase of the current outbreak at Stafford Creek, the majority of kitchen staff were amongst those screened out. This screened out status led to a shortage of both incarcerated workers and AC cooks, and the facility immediately began implementing backup staff and procedures.</p> <p>The facility acknowledges there have been delays with meal times since these staff were screened and contact-mapped out of the facility. As would happen with any new process being put into place, it has taken the facility time to adjust and improve to ensure that times and warmth of meals are returned to what the population is accustomed to.</p> <p>The facility food service manager 5 is</p>



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	<p>working to change the food delivery schedule so the meals will be delivered in a timely fashion for each meal, hoping to assist in temperature preservation as well. The facility will continue to strategize ways to better improve this process.</p>
<p>H2 Unit: (1) wanting surgical masks instead of cloth face coverings, (2) concerns that the COVID-positive people were allegedly being allowed to run free while they were locked down; and (3) the allegations of a rumored death due to a use of force.</p>	<p>(1) Surgical masks are now being distributed daily to the incarcerated population and staff within the facility. (2) Those who have tested positive are housed together and are allowed more unrestricted access to dayroom areas as there is not the same risk of spread as there is in quarantine or isolation units. (3) This allegation has been addressed and confirmed with the population and stakeholders a false report.</p>
<p>G-A: Reportedly had been in the unit for several days and had requested his inhaler from every staff but had not received it.</p>	<p>Nursing staff are following up on medical concerns that have been identified. All individuals that had medical related complaints noted by the Office of Corrections Ombuds have been seen by medical and evaluated for their concerns.</p>
<p>G-A : Another individual stated that he couldn't get his medication refilled</p>	<p>Nursing staff are following up on medical concerns that have been identified. All individuals that had medical related complaints noted by the Office of Corrections Ombuds have been seen by medical and evaluated for their concerns.</p>
<p>G-A : Multiple people showed that they had garbage built up in their cells from several days.</p>	<p>The facility has ensured that garbage is on a regular routine for pick up to ensure sanitation is maintained.</p>
<p>G-A : Multiple people relayed that they</p>	<p>After communication with unit, the</p>



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<p>could not clean their cells and had not been provided cleaning chemicals. One individual stated that his cellie had been removed from his cell for a positive test result and he had not been given chemicals to clean.</p>	<p>facility has ensured that the incarcerated population continue to receive cleaning supplies for the unit. Every time a cohort comes out of the unit they receive cleaning supplies.</p>
<p>G-A : Multiple individuals said that they had not received mail.</p>	<p>The facility acknowledges that there have been some delays in processing mail due to a number of factors such as temporary layoffs mandated to all State of Washington employees and then the contact mapping and screening processes put into place to protect the staff and incarcerated population during the COVID-19 pandemic. The facility is currently strategizing ways to provide assistance and accelerate the mail process ensuring that the population receive mail in a timely manner throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>G-A : Hadn't been able to use the phones in 12 days, hadn't been able to shower in six days, and hadn't received mail in eight days.</p>	<p>The facility has ensured that all unit sergeants have reviewed the current medical isolation and quarantine protocols so as to resolve these issues.</p>
<p>G-A : Three officers who sat together in a small enclosed office to eat lunch with their masks down. OCO recommends that DOC mandate that staff should not gather together to consume food or drink or any other activity that requires lowering the mask while they are indoors.</p>	<p>The facility takes the COVID-19 precautionary measures and protocols very seriously and has sent many memos to staff and the incarcerated population reminding of the importance to continue adhering to these protocols.</p> <p>Additionally, facility leadership met with all area supervisors to reiterate that staff are not to be gathering together, small staff areas have limitations for number of individuals present at one time, and that</p>



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	wearing masks appropriately is required at all times other than when eating or drinking. Corrective and/or disciplinary action will be taken if staff do not follow this requirement.
H1: Reported that they had not received new clothes since they had arrived on the unit, with some saying that they had not received new clothes in over a week.	The facility has ensured that all incarcerated individuals in the unit have clean clothes and are on a regular routine to receive clean clothes and laundry services.
H1: They did not have hygiene items.	Stafford Creek has allowed individuals to take their own hygiene items to their new housing location during the housing moves resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. Once individuals were moved, the housing unit staff replenish hygiene items as needed/requested. The facility leadership has ensured all individuals were given replacement hygiene items and additionally ensure that staff were aware that they were to ensure incarcerated individuals have access.
H1: One individual reported that he had been diagnosed with pneumonia in addition to COVID and he had not received any medications, even Tylenol.	Nursing staff are following up on medical concerns that have been identified. All individuals that had medical related complaints noted by the Office of Corrections Ombuds have been seen by medical and evaluated for their concerns. The facility thanks the Ombuds for bringing this to our attention. Additionally, all incarcerated individuals are receiving test results as quickly as staff are able to safely distribute them.
H1: Some of the individuals themselves	Larger cohorting models have been



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related concerns about the freedom of movement in the unit, as someone at the end of their convalescent time could mix with someone newly on the unit and then release back to the general population, and they were concerned about additional transmission.

recommended by clinical leadership for all facilities who have positive COVID-19 units. H1 has reduced the amount of incarcerated individuals out in the pod at one time and to minimize the incarcerated individual concerns to a larger cohort model.

There is no clinical concern based on the data presented throughout the COVID-19 outbreak that individuals will be diagnosed again with COVID-19 by close contact with someone who is a newer COVID-19 diagnosis. Clinical staff will continue to monitor diagnosis and will work to ensure that individuals with additional transmissible diagnosis are not mixed with the positive cohort models.

We appreciate your team's understanding of the unique implementation across facilities and the addition of policies and procedures being put in place to protect our populations. We will continue to proactively implement precautionary measures as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. Moving forward, Washington Department of Corrections will continue to collaborate with the Office of the Corrections Ombuds on any future quality assurance visits.

Sincerely,

Ronald Haynes, Superintendent
Stafford Creek Correctional Complex