March 20, 2020

Introduction of participants

Update

Jeremy – zero positive tests for incarcerated; now four staff are testing positive. The additional staff from yesterday is a contractor also at Peninsula Work Release.

Social distancing – Herzog and Martin have now issued social distancing protocols. Those will be provided on the website and the updated FAQ, which Paige has taken over. To review the protocols, DOC is encouraging six feet of distance whenever it is possible to do so. We are discouraging physical touch and handshakes. We are messaging with the population to take advantage of JPAY, kiosk, cellfront delivery, and to ensure that any language used by staff is consistent with language from HQ. Encouraging frequent management walkabouts to ensure incarcerated individuals are equally practicing social distancing. More on site praise for social distancing. Management staff should be meeting daily with tier reps to clarify concerns and directions. If there are instances where these things aren’t occurring, report back through Joanna.

Working to increase social distancing. Reducing dining room numbers to only accommodate the amount that can accommodate six foot rule. When needed, we are looking to reduce the dining room time, if it’s 20 minutes perhaps going to 15, we are providing exceptions for those with special needs. We are disinfecting dining tables, doorknobs, and all high touch areas between unit use. We are continuing in-cell feeding where already in practice and requesting that command post develop plans to accommodate changes in dining plans. Sage unit at CRCC (houses persons impacted by dementia and alzheimers) and infirmaries are being fed on unit.

Cleanliness – the continued use of cleaning and sanitation on every shift in every occupied area. Cleaning is being especially emphasized for shared objects and surfaces. We are expanding number of porter jobs. Our first priority is our medical, vulnerable populations.

Limiting work crews to no more than 10. Symptomatic incarcerated workers not allowed to go to work. Increasing hygiene education and increased cleaning for when working.

Programming and education – no more than what can accommodate six foot rule. Where possible, we are attempting to implement certain programs with in-cell packets of information. We are continuing the use of the laptop pilot programs where possible. State librarians are allowed to continue working in prison libraries, the institutional state libraries are closed due to social distancing. Many of those are very small in size. Requests for reentry information via library carts are still being filled.

Pill lines are being staggered using the social distancing criteria of six feet and health services staff is developing a process to seal bags that can be delivered in unit by non-clinical staff to reduce the pill line movements.

We are encouraging the population to use the JPAY system. With regard to money orders, we are encouraging more electronic processing – ex. Western Union. The mailed physical money orders can only be processed on-site and we are trying to telework as much as possible. They have to travel on-site to process physical money orders.

Religious services will continue. All individuals have the ability to practice their beliefs individually or collectively as long as we’re allowing six feet. This might require multiple services. We are working to ensure religious resources are available by request via kite or kiosk. We are working to increase religious coordinator availability.

Recreation and sports activities are included in the social distancing practices. No more than 50 at a time in outside recreation yards. We are implementing processes to ensure equitable access. Where local unit yards exist, the folks on-site can determine appropriate numbers based on the size of the yards. Shared equipment must be sanitized after each use, and limiting the size of people in the dayroom.

There is a great deal of thought that is being put forward. These are being rolled out and we are going to work hard that our staff will be informed on this. Following this, if you hear instances where that may not be the case, please contact OCO to forward those situations to us. These new protocols are being implemented today. A 3 pm conference call was held with our staff to ask clarifying questions. It was important to us to get this done before the weekend so that staff can make sure these things are being followed over the weekend.

There are reduced rates and a certain amount of free calls and more information about telecommunications is on the agency’s website.

Testing numbers are a priority. A number of us are pushing for the refinement of those numbers so that they can be posted on the website. In the latest briefing today, we were told that the numbers are close to being scrubbed.

Emergency Operations Manager has reached out to CI to up the amount of supplies being put out including soap.

DOC is facing the same shortage as the community. We are trying to obtain PPE through sources.

\*\*\*Jeremy left the call and the call was opened to comments from the community\*\*\*

Request more time from DOC?

Regarding those who have tested positive, such as state staff and contractor staff – have the incarcerated people there been put on a lockdown at Peninsula? [Joanna found out later that yes, all incarcerated people at Peninsula have been put on 72 hour quarantine.]

What about general mail – my loved one is in IMU – can they have tablets – is the mail not being processed due to staff not being on site? What about Union Supply Direct – is that not being processed?

What about disciplinary hearings – are they happening?

Are they still doing transfers? [Joanna shared that the only transfers that are currently occurring are “essential” transfers, but admittedly we do not know what qualifies as “essential”]

The living situation in large groups at camps – the DNR work crews going out, they are being required to sit together in the transport vehicles.

A counselor came and told a person who was supposed to be released on Monday and told they couldn’t due to covid. Joanna said for the loved one of the person to tell the incarcerated person to call OCO and we would look into this.

Report that they are having to reuse rags at AHCC.

How is DoC going to hold staff accountable? What if they don’t follow policy?

Jeremy mentioned that they are doing social distancing in dining halls, how is this affecting movement? How long is it taking them to feed people? How long is it taking them to run mainline?