March 23, 2020

59 participants

Q&A with Jeremy Barclay, DOC

No increase in the confirmed cases. Want to point people to dedicated DOC page for COVID-19 and you can also access that through a convenient link at the top of the main DOC webpage. Four confirmed staff, three DOC staff, one contractor, same locations as before (MCC, DOC HQ, and Peninsula WR). Still no increases in confirmed cases for incarcerated individuals. We have added the testing information for incarcerated individuals. There are 31 people who have been tested; only six have had returned tests, all negative. We try to update numbers between noon and 3 pm each day. There is a resource section at the bottom with good information. Right before that we expanded the FAQ section to encompass more of those questions that we have been hearing from the community, OCO, etc.

WCCW – lack of supplies in J unit for children, such as formula? We are stocked and prepared to continue to providing those supplies. We know that there are shortages, but we do have appropriate supplies.

Women in J unit are being told that they need to send their children out of the prison? Incorrect – we suspended the residential parenting program dayroom on March 9 and enhanced cleaning protocols very two hours before the pandemic; we had gone through the routine vaccinations, beginning of March. Due to covid, we have stopped visitation from all extended family and all visits are stopped as they are elsewhere. As of March 16, all mothers and children were asked to stay in their rooms as much as possible, and to assist in containment. Are women still being sent to Yakima? The last transfer of women to Yakima occurred on March 17. In Yakima there are 20 women. There are no planned transfers to Yakima at this time. How many women have been tested at Yakima? There are no women at Yakima who have been symptomatic, so no testing has been done. As you know in the community and in the facilities, tests are being reserved for those who are symptomatic so there is nothing like that. If an incarcerated woman at Yakima becomes ill, what would happen? The normal procedure would be to bring that woman back to WCCW. Where are violators being housed? Violators are being housed in the segregation unit as they normally are. We are continuing to maintain regular cleaning. What cleaning products are being utilized? We have the correct pac germicide and diluted bleach – those are both being used by the facility. We have heard only one kitchen is functioning now and all women have to eat at the one kitchen – with the agency screening in process, there are less staff coming into the facility at this time. There is one kitchen functioning at this time and that is because we could survive with one kitchen and closing one kitchen until such time that our staffing levels pick back up. The meal times have been going up. We have begun to implement grab and go meals.

There is a question about transfers – there is screening before individuals get on buses and at this time we have no positive cases in the facilities. Since there are no positive cases at this time and we screen, there is no concern at this time of mixing populations. We are keeping some of those normal operations that are good for custody staffing and the custody levels going on as regular a trajectory as possible.

Quarantine numbers? At this time, there are quarantines happening at the various facilities. No specific numbers were provided. Are there written guidelines to the quarantines across the facilities? - great question we will ask and get that down to the website. (what is the protocol for determining quarantine and conditions of confinement)

Correct Pack Germicidal Cleaner does meet the criteria for use against the cause of covid-19. This disinfectant is a registered formulation and is appropriate. We are also taking inventory with all of the facilities to ensure they are using the Correct Pack.

People aren’t getting hand sanitizer, is there hand sanitizer anywhere of not available for DOC? - uniformly not available due to shortages in communities.

Joanna shared that in speaking with CBCC, the minimum amount of cleaning was hourly, but that it was happening regularly/continuously. CI has ordered thousands of bars of soap that are expected to arrive this week and will be distributed to incarcerated individuals so that they can use it with water, which is reportedly more effective than hand sanitizer.

Testing results backlog – we were looking at the DOH website earlier to see what kinds of delays. It is based off of per lab, but we are waiting in line with community members.

Expediting JPay communications? will get guidance.

Are infractions being given out about disciplinary hearings? - we are doing verbal warnings and discussions.

Laundry – pending question.

Gloves – PPE is at a shortage in the community and correction is not any different than the community.

Immune suppressed persons who are breathing same recirculated air as those with covid – right now we don’t have anyone who has the covid-19 virus. That being said, we are determining what is the best way to manage the population, just as we would during seasonal flu season, so what is the right way and best way

Comments by OCO

Joanna- please read CDC best practices for Correctional facilities

-We talked about where this call goes. Rob asked each sup to hold a family counsel call and invite OCO.

-We need more information from the community and we are focusing on monitoring and facilitating communications. So far DOC has been responding.

 -I don’t have an explanation in the differences in information.

- Part of my job to reach out to HQ and talk to them about questions expectations and guidelines. That way we know if there being met at each institution.

Community Questions

* Clarification on temp
* Pandemic Emergency Team- they want to know is there a person individually connected to QA to be monitoring for guidance at each facility?
* Where is the Superintendent for WCCW?
* Is the chief of security involved in any of these decisions? Are they willing to allow certain items so the incarcerated person can protect themselves?
* How can we find out that the recommendations HQ gives are being followed? How do we facilitate change in this area?

Community Concerns:

* Community member Cindy/ Kehaulani- there was reportedly an abundance of soap and sanitizer and now it won’t be delivered until this week?! This is inaccurate and I’m very concerned about that answer.
* How can they say they have zero if they are doing the wrong testing? I don’t understand why they are still being transferred.
* We were told these things were plentiful. It hasn’t been received per loved ones inside.
* They aren’t using approved cleaning liquids, people are using their towels, no one but porters have access to gloves.
* 4hrs for women to get the food.
* This conversation was staged
* They are aggressively going after people for infractions, they are not using positive reinforcement and they are using it as a tool to further punish.