

**Statewide Family Council
Conference Call
March 27, 2020**

1. How many people are in quarantine at each facility and what criteria has DOC set for an inmate to receive a Covid/Corona test?
 - a. For information on a specific facility we would like to ask you to inquire during the local family council calls as those numbers are changing on an hourly basis. For the [COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Guideline](#) please visit the DOC COVID-19 webpage.

2. Does DOC have test kits in their possession? If so how many? The reason I ask is because we're hearing how limited they are out here.
 - a. The Department of Corrections has COVID-19 test kits available at each facility. We have not had a test kit supply problem at any facility.

3. Can you confirm what cleaner you're using to combat the virus? I've heard of different cleaners and cleaning processes being used at each facility. Some of the cleaners include a germicide, bleach and Hepastat.
 - a. For specific facility cleaner questions we would ask that you inquire during the local family council phone calls with the staff of the respective facility.

4. There is concern that some of the Covid symptoms resemble the flu. What % of the population opted for flu shots this season?
 - a. We have emailed Dr. Hayes to request the flu information and can make it available once we have it.

5. Is DOC supportive of reducing the prison and work release population? What is being done right now to get people out who are eligible for GRE, home monitoring programs and early releases?
 - a. Currently, we are pleased to report that there are zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst our incarcerated population throughout the Washington state correctional facilities. The agency has implemented screening and precautionary measures to continue the success of protecting those in our custody from the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on the daily updates from the Department of Corrections, we invite you to view the [Daily Situation Report](#) that is updated daily on the agency's dedicated COVID-19 webpage and the [DOC COVID-19 FAQs](#) webpage for information on the precautionary measures that the department is doing to protect the health and safety of incarcerated individuals. The Department of Corrections is also evaluating the three statutorily sanctioned release options available to our agency. The three statutes for reference are [Extraordinary Medical Placement \(RCW 9.94A.728\)](#), [Graduated Reentry \(RCW 9.94A.733\)](#) and [Furloughs \(RCW 72.66\)](#).
It is important that the decisions we make are done with recognition that we are part of a global health crisis and limit the impacts to other critical community systems who are engaged in the larger public health response. We are actively working to evaluate all available options for continuing to ensure the safety and health of our incarcerated population. We will be updating the public as information is available.

6. I heard that WSR is opening a mothballed unit, is it for violator bed space? Where is DOC going to put all of the people being forced out of the jails? HB2417 doesn't go into effect until June but is there anything in the Gov's power that can move that date up to help DOC keep some violators out of custody?

a. Each facility that is in taking violators is handling the space as their facility is able. The agency will accommodate these incoming violators as we are statutorily required. For facility specific information we would invite you to inquire during your local family council calls as they will have the most updated information.

7. Social distancing in tight, overcrowded prison spaces is obviously a challenge. How is DOC leadership instructing employees to balance being reasonable with protecting public health? How are protocols being enforced without creating unnecessary antagonism between staff and prisoners?

a. At this time the Department of Corrections is informing the population verbally and through informational campaigns of the necessity to practice the CDC recommended practices, such as social distancing. Our staff is understanding of the newness of the COVID-19 procedures and protocols and are being reminded that understanding and compassion in this time of crisis is the most important response to these protocols. We have reports that the population have been very accepting of these new suggestions and there has been no need to require an enforcement to these new protocols.

8. Getting fresh air and plenty of exercise is crucial to the mental health of many prisoners. It helps take the edge off for many prisoners who find it difficult to live in the crowded, repetitive, noisy prison environment, which keeps staff and prison spaces safer in the long-term. How is WSP leadership instructing staff to ensure that prisoners are still getting enough physical exercise?

a. For specific facility information we would invite you to please inquire at your local family council phone calls. The agency is very supportive of ensuring the population is getting access to programming and exercise. Each facility is unique and is working on plans to adjust their schedules and protocols to accommodate the CDC recommendations and the health and wellbeing of the incarcerated population.

9. If further restrictions are imposed, how will DOC leadership ensure prisoner meals have the nutritional variety to comply with the DOH guidelines established to implement Executive Order 13-06? (Cold bagged meals of PBJ for many weeks on end would not meet legal nutritional requirements under our state laws.)

a. The Department of Corrections has not had any change in content of the meals that are being provided to the incarcerated individuals during this COVID-19 pandemic. We are compliant with the required USDA dietary guidelines at this time. We are taking precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of incarcerated individuals and will accommodate meals and their contents regulations as needed. At this time there is no need to adjust our current practice.

10. Have all of the facilities been told to expand their video visitation times/hours to help allow more families opportunities to have video visits with their loved ones? At CCCC, video visitation time slots have not expanded yet. But I did hear last night that they are "looking into" this. Video visit scheduling is pushed out almost 2 weeks right now.

a. All of the correctional facilities have different capabilities, but as an agency we understand the importance of providing visitation and communication with loved ones for our incarcerated population. We are working to adjust and implement protocols to ensure all of our population has means to communication with their loved ones during this time.

11. CCCC has been cleared to allow crews to go to McNeil Island and CI Headquarters for work. However, there is also an offsite crew that is going to Maple Lane still. (They have gone as recent as this week..) Is this crew having contact with people at all? If so, are they being screened? Also, it's been reported that at CI HQ the delivery drivers are only being screened on their first trip for the day and not at all the remainder of the day. Is there knowledge these drivers are not being re-exposed in the community during their work day? Why are they not being screened every time they enter the facility?

a. The work crews that are going to Maple Lane are not in direct contact with the public. We appreciate the information about the CI HQ delivery drivers and will be sending that information along.

12. Now that facilities have the means to screen incoming staff, inmates, any visitors coming in. Is there any possibility of at least EFVs opening soon with possibly alternating check in times for families? This would limit the exposure of families to one another, but also follows groups of less than 10 people mandate for our state at this time. Visitors checking in for EFVs could be screened and temps taken, as well as subsequent temps taken on each day visitors are inside the facility.

a. The Department of Corrections recognizes the importance of visitation and communication to the incarcerated population. The agency is working to be able to lift the visitation freeze but at this time there is no date expected to open EFVs.

13. At CCCC, Cascade unit A Tier - there was an inmate taken out for severe sickness on or around March 17th. Was this person tested for COVID. The tier is still on quarantine/lock down/restricted movement. This is cutting into people's video visits, etc. As they are allowing them day room use separate from the other tiers. Anyone from the other tiers cannot attend their video visits if that tier is using the day room at that same time. Someone is curious why this tier is still on quarantine? Awaiting test results or just waiting out the 14 day quarantine period for "possible exposure." ???

a. The process for quarantine is to monitor individuals for a 14-day period to ensure they do not develop symptoms. After a 14-day period if no symptoms are shown they will be off of quarantine status.

14. When will the DNR crews be allowed to go back to work?
 - a. At this time there is no date expectation for the return of interaction with the public.
15. How many inmates have been tested at Stafford Creek? Results?
 - a. For facility specific information we invite you to inquire at your local family council calls.
16. How many staff have been tested at SCCC? Results?
 - a. This data is not available.
17. Are temperatures being taken for all staff? For all inmates? How often?
 - a. Staff are being screened upon entry to the facility. Incarcerated individuals are screened if they are showing symptoms.
18. Are any inmates quarantined? If so, how many?
 - a. For facility specific information we invite you to inquire during your local family council calls as these numbers are changing hourly.
19. Has a quarantine unit or area been set up? If so, where?
 - a. For facility specific information we invite you to inquire during your local family council calls. Each facility is handling quarantine and isolation as their facility permits.
20. Is there a definite protocol in place if an inmate tests positive? What is it?
 - a. If an incarcerated individual tests positive for COVID-19 they will be placed into isolation and monitored by Health Services Staff. Each case will be handled individually and will meet the needs of the incarcerated individual. The agency will then create a map of possible in contact individuals and implement quarantine and screening protocols as needed.
21. What is being done to insure that the inmates get enough fresh air and exercise?
 - a. For facility specific information we invite you to please inquire during your local family council calls. Each facility is unique and is developing plans and protocols to ensure their facilities are able to maintain as many programming and rec activities for as many incarcerated individuals as possible.
22. I have heard that liquid soap is better than bar soap. Are there soap dispensers available for the inmates?
 - a. For facility specific information we invite you to please inquire during your local family council calls. Facilities do have soap dispensers and the Department of Corrections are providing incarcerated individuals with complimentary bars of soap for use.
23. Are surfaces cleaned after each small group eats, showers, etc.
 - a. Facilities have been instructed that all group areas are to be cleaned hourly and high use items such as phones and kiosks are to be cleaned after each individual use.

24. Are telephones cleaned after each use?
- a. Facilities have been instructed that all group areas are to be cleaned hourly and high use items such as phones and kiosks are to be cleaned after each individual use.
25. Is anything being done to keep the population “engaged”? For example, continuation of classes in smaller groups if necessary? Ms. Penrose noted that they were looking into how education could resume. This should be one of the priorities.
- a. For facility specific information we invite you to please inquire during your local family council calls. Each facility is unique and is developing plans and protocols to ensure their facilities are able to maintain as many programming and rec activities for as many incarcerated individuals as possible.
26. Is a conversation happening among DOC administrators and or the legislators regarding the release of prisoners who have a short time left or are aged?
- a. Currently, we are pleased to report that there are zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst our incarcerated population throughout the Washington state correctional facilities. The agency has implemented screening and precautionary measures to continue the success of protecting those in our custody from the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on the daily updates from the Department of Corrections, we invite you to view the [Daily Situation Report](#) that is updated daily on the agency’s dedicated COVID-19 webpage and the [DOC COVID-19 FAQs](#) webpage for information on the precautionary measures that the department is doing to protect the health and safety of incarcerated individuals. The Department of Corrections is also evaluating the three statutorily sanctioned release options available to our agency. The three statutes for reference are [Extraordinary Medical Placement \(RCW 9.94A.728\)](#), [Graduated Reentry \(RCW 9.94A.733\)](#) and [Furloughs \(RCW 72.66\)](#). It is important that the decisions we make are done with recognition that we are part of a global health crisis and limit the impacts to other critical community systems who are engaged in the larger public health response.
27. What are the plans for transferring Women to and from Yakima? Will there be a hold put on the transfers out to Yakima during this time and what are the plans for the women that are there right now? I know right now that there are not any transfers planned but am wondering how long this “hold” may last?
- a. At this time the Department of Corrections is not sending any women to the Yakima County Jail. The agency will transfer women back to WCCW as needed and following the screening protocols in place to ensure the health and safety of our incarcerated individuals. There is no date in place to change this procedure.
28. I also asked this during our WCCW call today and Superintendent Wofford is going to check into this but I thought I would ask here as well. Has there been any thought or talk about bringing single use paper towels into the living units for hand washing. I believe this is the recommendation by CDC rather than using personal towels multiple times.
- a. At this time there is no discussion about providing single use paper towels. We will share this suggestion with the HQ Emergency Operations Center.

Follow-Up Questions:

1. Are meals being changed to cold/sacked meals?
 - a. Some facilities are doing “grab and go” meals (i.e, clamshells or boats) for a meal due to mainline times lasting so long (to ensure social distancing), which is not leaving time between mainlines to adequately clean and disinfect. For instance, at SCCC, lunch is being served as a grab and go. However, I did confirm they are still serving hot breakfasts and dinners, so this would be considered their one cold meal. All guidelines are still being met as required.