

TO: ALL CONCERNED

DATE: March 10th, 2021

RE: Town Hall Q & A

The Town Hall this week began with what took place in the last week surrounding our Mass Testing of all vulnerable inmates.

It was determined to Mass Test all of our vulnerable inmates due to concerns that there may be some in our population that were positive but not symptomatic and/or not being forthright about feeling sick. This has been an issue at many facilities due to the concerns about being quarantined.

The problem becomes if an inmate does react poorly to the virus and it is not diagnosed early, it could present other problems.

A decision was ultimately made by the Coronavirus Group at Central Office to Mass Test all of our vulnerables and approximately 990 inmates were tested. There were 96 that refused from primarily, 2 of our Housing Units. Out of the inmates tested there were approximately 220 positive results. It should be noted that none of the inmates at the time of testing were symptomatic. It is crucial that we know the medical status of vulnerable inmates as they are the ones that most commonly are affected the most by COVID.

Once we received the positives, we began moving inmates in the facility to ensure that if an inmate tested positive and his cell mate, if he had one, was negative, that they were separated. We also were required to move all of the positives into one area on the Pod. The challenges in making all these moves and sorting out the enhanced quarantines from the regular Cohorts on the Pod was significant but ultimately was completed as of Wednesday afternoon

In touring we understand the frustration that many of you are experiencing but as I indicated, it is to prevent loss of life. Sadly, at the end of the day on Wednesday, we did have our third COVID related death of an inmate.

Questions from inmate requests:

1. Still many questions about Zyn.

I was told that there may be some movement on obtaining this, but I still have seen nothing official.

2. When can we get to the Barbershop?

We certainly would like to get everyone a haircut as soon as possible and as soon as we are permitted to do so, that will happen.

It is imperative that everyone realize that we do not make the decision as to when we open the facility up into larger Cohorts locally. That is all with the approval of Central Office and not a local decision that I can make.

I am very confident that at the end of this quarantine from the Mass Testing which is Thursday, 3/18, this facility should be in much better shape. That being said, we should be able to open up to 8-person Cohorts and with the hopes that if things continue to trend in the right direction, to 16-persons in the near future. There are some facilities that are going in that direction and we hope that we are there soon.

3. TV's and Tablets.

****Update 3/11/21- per Central Office, Tablets are now available and also TV's are going to be available next week.**

4. The question was asked that if the \$25.00 for completing both phases of the vaccine is going to have the fines and costs deducted.

It was confirmed with the Business Office that this **will not** be subject to Act 84 deductions. It will be a straight \$25.00 to your inmate account.

5. There were some questions over the week asked regarding the vaccine. If I have other allergies, should I get the vaccine?

Dr. Longnecker has indicated that with standard allergies there should be no concern, but if you have had previous reaction to a vaccine at any time, a Provider will need to approve you first.

6. Why are no CPS allowed out?

We believe in CPS and would desire that they be out, but we are unable to accommodate due the COVID concerns in the facility. Hopefully they will be out again soon.

7. Are there any other treatments for COVID prevention beside the vaccine?

In speaking with Dr. Longnecker and my personal research, no. There are always people who try to sell a vitamin or some other supplement, but nothing has been confirmed as effective.

There have been no updates on the vaccine other than we are prepared to administer them here and have a Plan of Action ready to go as soon as they arrive.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Clark', written over the text 'Thank you.'

Superintendent Clark

MRC/aae