

TO: ALL CONCERNED

DATE: March 30th, 2021

RE: Town Hall Q & A

Review of statistics. Numbers overall are trending down, but as of today there have been 118 COVID related inmate deaths in the PA Department of Corrections. There are also 32 inmates at outside hospitals throughout the Department. We have none currently out at the hospital at this facility and our inmate deaths remains at 3. One (1) is too many but we are grateful that we have not had the numbers that some facilities have had.

Questions/concerns from inmate requests:

1. The news says the UK variant is in Erie County, how will this effect the prison?

We have heard no direction on any changes in our protocols in regards to the variants that are currently out there. We will continue to maintain the same protocols as with the original Coronavirus unless told otherwise.

2. Veterans are receiving shots in the community, why can't I?

We most certainly will provide immunizations to any inmates here that we have the vaccines for, but we have received no vaccines at this facility as of today. We are on the list to receive them, but no confirmed word yet.

3. If I end up getting the Johnson and Johnson 1 shot, do I still get the \$25.00?

The \$25.00 is just incentive for getting a complete vaccine. If the vaccine is a one shot dose only, you will receive the \$25.00 in your inmate account.

4. Why aren't we getting more workers to work, and why am I penalized because I am not "recovered"?

We want to get more workers out as soon as possible and certainly the Departments would like more assistance. Inmates that are recovered are in a better position with antibodies they are much less apt to contract the Coronavirus again. This has been all about reducing the spread of COVID and to keep inmates alive.

5. Movie options.

Many inmates write to me with potential movie options and I immediately pass them on to Activities Manager Jackson. If they are available and we can acquire, I am sure they will be considered.

6. Can you turn the heat down on the Units please?

This time of year, it is impossible to keep everyone happy with temperatures. We have 70 degrees today and we had snow on the ground in some areas yesterday. If we turned the boilers off and we get a week of cold weather, there will be some very uncomfortable people. It is this way every spring and fall. Please be patient.

7. Will I be quarantined after a medical trip in the community now?

As of now the direction still stands on quarantines following trips. If we get direction that this changes we certainly will change our local protocols.

8. I cannot find what the Tablet order number is, can you provide it?

The Tablet order number is 94931. I just found out today that they are currently out of stock and in the process of being ordered once again.

One of the issues with all of the Stimulus checks is that many more inmates are able to buy goods and products. This is causing more difficulty in resources to find some of these products. You will be alerted when they are back in stock.

9. What if I cannot get a shot due to my Religious beliefs, are there any other options?

There are no other options beyond a vaccination shot at this point. It comes down to a personal decision that each of us have to make in this regard.

10. Can we get photos taken again?

Photos, among other things, we hope to have back up again soon. We are also looking at soda in the Yard fairly soon.

11. If I have had the Coronavirus and I am recovered, why do I have to wear a mask?

As has been addressed before, a number of reasons. For one – Consistency. We cannot go around and ask which inmates are recovered or eventually vaccinated and which are not. Until there is a state-wide decision to not enforce masks that then transfers to the prisons, we have to continue to wear masks as the Governor directs. You also must keep in mind that the vaccine is also not 100% effective.

12. Cell moves.

We are also beginning to loosen up permission for cell moves on the Units. We had greatly restricted that due the concern about spread in the facility but along with everything, considered loosing this up if our numbers of cases continue to drop.

13. Chain-of-Command.

As Deputy Jones discussed last week concerning Chain-of-Command, please review the diagram on the Units that explains Chain-of-Command. You should almost always begin with your Unit Team first and then work your way up. If it is a Unit issue it should go to your Unit Team and if not rectified to the Major of Unit Management Thompson, then up through Deputy Jones and then to me ultimately if no answers are provided.

We appreciate your continued cooperation. Thank you.


Michael R. Clark
Superintendent

MRC/aae