

**TO: ALL CONCERNED**

**DATE: Wednesday, May 13th, 2021**

**RE: Town Hall Q & A**

COVID – our numbers are trending the way we want them to. We have had a couple of positives and nothing is being detected in our waste water. All who have wanted to receive the vaccine have received it.

To dispell some rumors and myths, if you are working and you are not vaccintated, that does not mean that you are fired, you are being laid in. You are still getting paid.

If you remember when COVID started, the common terminoligy was "recovered"; recovered inmates were used for working. Since all of the institutions have received the vaccines and inmates have had their chance to be vaccinated, the focus has since gone from "recovered" to "vaccinated/unvaccinated." That is the terminoligy that Central Office is using now. In saying that, we are now using fully vaccinated individuals to work due to the simple fact that you are less likely to get COVID, and symptoms are lessened if you do contract the virus as all three vaccines are 100% effective against hospitilazations and mortality.

You have started to see inmates going to work more and more things have started to open up. We are now running with 32-plus Cohort sizes. As long as we continue to trend in the way we are, then we will continue to open up more and add things things here and there. It will be a slow-roll.

1. Quarantine/EQ.

We have had some individuals who have tested postive and their Cohorts ended up being quarantined. You have vaccinated inmates who are also being quarantined. After discussions with Central Office and Dr. Longnecker, the procedure moving forward will be that if you are in a Cohort and an individual in your Cohort tests postive but you are fully vaccinated, meaning you have received the vaccine and have gone the 28 days, you will not be put on EQ. You will continue "business as usual."

2. If I am living with a vaccinated person and I am not vaccinated, why am I being moved with a non-vaccinated person?

This is simply for quarantine purposes. If your cellie is vaccinated and you are not and someone in your Cohort tests positive, you being not vaccinated, you have to be EQ-ed. Your cell mate who is vaccinated doesn't have to quarantine. These moves that we are trying to do on the Housing Units putting vaccinated individuals together and non-vaccinated individuals together, that is the purpose behind it.

You will begin to see things slowly opening back up. We are trying to get Barbershop running again and are waiting for the okay from Central Office to do so. Hopefully soon we will see our Cohort numbers grow and start to slowly introduce outside workers.

The goal is to slowly get everyone accustomed to seeing the institution move again. There are staff, and inmates, here who have never seen a fully functioning facility. Everything has to be rolled out slowly to get everyone comfortable with it again.

Last Townhall I spoke about Central Office looking at violence as far as how quickly we can open up. We are being transparent about this. We meet with Central Office and all the other facilities every week to discuss violence in the facilities and out in the community and how that affects the facilities.

- COVID stats here at SCI Albion

1,646 vaccines were administered. Our current population is 2,119. We have a pretty decent average.

As I said in the previous Town Hall, if you decide that you want the vaccine, write a request to the Medical Department and they will get you scheduled.

- J Unit becoming an RTU.

This is going forward. We do not know exactly when it will begin. Those of you that can see over towards Zone 1 will start to see construction of a Yard.

I didn't receive too many requests for the Superintendent. A majority of them were regarding things that have been answered many times before by either the Superintendent, myself or Deputy Flinchbaugh. There is nothing really new to report.

Thank you again for your continued patience.



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Earl J. Jones, DSFM

EJJ/dae