



**TO: ALL CONCERNED**

**DATE: Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> , 2021**

**RE: Town Hall Q & A**

COVID – currently everything is trending well. Nothing has been detected in the waste water for the last three weeks. As you all can tell, the Cohorts sizes have been increased to Tiers. In addition, Barbershop has been added back into the rotation of things. In my tours around the institution a lot of you have been very appreciative and thankful for that. You have started to see inmates going to work more.

In our meeting with Central Office this week we discussed the slow roll-out of services such as Activities, Education, Religious Services, etc. We are working on Plans of Action to be approved by Central Office.

One thing that was brought up during the meeting was Contact Visits starting up again in the facilities. The plan as of right now is to have the first 5 institutions that received the vaccine to start visits by June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This includes SCI Laurel Highlands, SCI Waymart, SCI Muncy, SCI Cambridge Springs and Quehanna Boot Camp. What will determine when the Contact Visits begin at the remaining institutions will be based on inmate vaccination rates and results from the wastewater testing.

From the information we received, visits will be scheduled through the same web site as the virtual visits are, with a choice of a virtual or a contact visit. They will be 3 hours long and up to 4 individuals per inmate will be permitted. The visitor will be issued a mask in the Lobby, the inmate will be issued a mask along with their visiting attire. This is all the information we have for now. There has been no information regarding visiting days per week, visiting hours or extended visits at this time. We will get that out to population as soon as possible.

Direction from Central Office regarding Quarantine/EQ for vaccinated/unvaccinated individuals was discussed. If you have an individual in your Cohort that is unvaccinated and tests positive for COVID, all the individuals who are in that Cohort who are unvaccinated will have to be quarantined.

#### Questions/Concerns:

1. CDC guidelines say that if you are vaccinated then you don't have to wear a mask, indoors or outdoors.

Per the DOC, we will continue to wear our masks inside and outside at this time. We will follow this direction until we are told otherwise.

2. TVs and Tablets

TV are supposed to be back in stock next week. There has been no information as to when Tablets will be back in stock. The demand for these items is higher than the supply right now

3. Individuals receiving the \$25.00 incentive for participating in the most recent vaccinations.

I spoke with the Business Office and the money should be on your accounts now. If you did not receive it yet, please write a request to the Business Office. Once you are vaccinated Medical sends this information to the Business Office so that they can put the money on your account.

We have been locked down for approximately a year and a half. There has been a lot of leniency with the rules on the Housing Units. As we are opening up more, standing for Count and your basic Housing Unit rules will start to be enforced. We all have to get back into the mindset of the normal running of the institution. There are staff and inmates alike who may have come in during COVID and have not experienced the normal routine of a facility; we all need to get back to the basics so we can start to open things back up more.

Thank you.



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Earl J. Jones, DSFM

EJJ/aae