

TO: All Inmates
FROM: D. Close, Deputy Superintendent Centralized Services
DATE: December 9, 2020
RE: Operational Changes

Pennsylvania's Surgeon General Rachel Levine is projecting that the COVID cases could continue to spike in the state of Pennsylvania for the next few months. The Department of Corrections is taking this opportunity to initiate a "statewide system reset." This will provide us with an opportunity to deep clean various areas throughout the facility and to continue to focus on providing a safer environment. In response to this, the PADC has implemented the following changes:

The Cohort size is now eight inmates. Why?... The goal is to reduce the risk of your exposure to the virus and reduce the spread of the virus. You will still have at least one opportunity daily to get out of your cell to use the phone, kiosk or participate in block out. New schedules for block out and yard will be implemented effective Thursday, December 10, 2020.

While this may not be the best news, it has led to some exciting news in regards to some new developments that have occurred:

Free Cable has been extended through the end of March 2021.

Some of the inmate bathrooms on the housing units will soon be decommissioned to create the space for a **new virtual visitation station** located on your unit.

Beginning on Friday, December 11, 2020 we will be offering **additional food/desert** incentives **on a weekly basis**. This will be provided to you once a week during the supper meal.

We will be expanding our range of in-cell activities to include things like (in-cell packets, in-cell puzzles, **in-cell bingo with food/candy prizes.**)

There will be a regular video series that will be aired on the Institutional Channel coordinated through Dr. Chris Conti.

Ice Cream Sales and Commissary will continue to be delivered cell to cell.

Any Inmates refusing to work will not be receiving compensation.

We will continue to provide you with updates through memos and Fireside chats as there are changes or additional information becomes available.

We have spent nine months defending against this virus by creating a clean and safe environment. As news that a vaccination may finally be approved, we can't let up. If we can work together using proper PPE, and social distancing we can get back to a more normal routine.