

Fireside Chat 1-24-22

Today, SCI-Huntingdon's Administrative Team had a mandatory meeting with the Department of Corrections' Central Office. As you can probably guess, this meeting was centered around the current COVID-19 surge and best practices at keeping our Staff and Inmate population safe. Communities throughout Pennsylvania continue to be hit with COVID-19 surges and measures must be taken in order to mitigate this current surge. The following memo from Secretary Little is being distributed to the inmate population. Some highlights of this memo are as follows:

- Highlighted Areas of Secretary Little's Memo to the Inmate Population dated 1/24/22

With that being said and to recap what we will be doing here at SCI-Huntingdon:

- In person visitation will be put on pause until March 1st. Video visitation will continue on the housing units.
- 2 free phone calls per week
- Free cable for the month of February
- Snack packs will begin again next week


SCI-Huntingdon's Administrative Team understands this is a setback, however, this setback is not as drastic as the ones we saw during previous COVID surges. We remain in cohorts that consist of entire housing units.

Our Maintenance Department will ramp up their cleaning efforts by conducting deep cleans 3 times per week. Please remember to wear your mask and practice social distancing.

Institutional services remain in operation. Work lines will continue by housing unit.

Commissary, Barber Shop, and Laundry will continue as will Law Library. Counseling services remain available through Unit Team Staff. Psychological services, Psychiatry, and Medical Staff continue to carry out their duties. Our Treatment Specialists and drug and alcohol counselors remain focused on ensuring Correctional Plan programming is being facilitated. There has been no interruption with Parole Interviews or Parole Board hearings as Staff continue to maintain parole dockets. Our facility Chaplains remain committed to carrying out their mission and have been assigned to each housing unit. Our Clinic Area services remain intact as we continue to operate that area based on a housing unit schedule. And last but not least, our Security Staff remains vigilant in maintaining and preserving a safe environment.

SCI-Huntingdon's Administrative Team thanks you for your cooperation and patience as we all continue to adapt and accept the changes to our daily routine that has been brought on by COVID-19.


CCPM 1/24/22



TO: All Inmates

FROM: George M. Little
Secretary of Corrections

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George M. Little'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'L' and 'l'.

DATE: January 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Pause on In-Person Visitation

As we enter the two-year mark in managing the COVID-19 pandemic, I don't believe any of us thought that we would once again see another surge in COVID cases. Unfortunately, the Omicron variant is severely contagious, and the Department is seeing positivity rates amongst staff and our incarcerated population that are similar to pre-vaccination numbers. Luckily, because so many of you have done your part in receiving the vaccine and booster, we are experiencing much lower hospitalization rates and death amongst the population.

Due to the highly contagious nature of this variant, the Department must pause in-person visitation from January 27 – February 28. This limitation is necessary for the safety of you and your family, and plans are in place to reinstate visits on March 1, 2022. When visitation resumes, the Department will require all visitors 12 years and older to affirm they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 during the scheduling process. Visitors may be asked to provide proof of vaccination before entering the facility.

We understand that family connections are important to you, and this is unwelcome news. In response, the Department will offer increased video visitation for our entire population. We are also offering free weekly snack bags, free cable for the month of February, as well as two (2) free phone calls per week from now until March 31. Phone calls for those in the RHU will be at the discretion of PRC. International calls are not permitted under this free call allotment and will be charged at the normal rate.

I can't thank you enough for the cooperation you've shown during this time, and appreciate your continued patience throughout this period. If you have any questions, please contact your unit team for assistance.