Fireside Chat 1-26-22

As a follow up from our last Fireside Chat, the purpose today is to clarify some of the things mentioned and to answer some of the frequently asked questions.

In that fireside chat and the memo put out to all state institutions by Secretary Little, it was announced that video visitation opportunities would be increased. Here at SCI-Huntingdon, we have already increased our video visitation hours. Some other institutions have only been utilizing video visitation on normal visiting days during normal visiting hours. The opportunity for this service at Huntingdon is being offered to the maximum extent that is operationally possible; therefore, there will be no changes to our video visitation hours.

We are aware that during extended time periods of cold weather, the opportunity to purchase concessions is limited. We are working on some possibilities that will stay in compliance with COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

We are also aware there are some inmates who have not yet received the \$25 for receiving the COVID booster shot. Our Business Office and Medical Department are working on finalizing the incentive for those remaining inmates.

In regards to cell restriction and free phone calls: We have to be mindful of and comply with the DC-ADM 801 policy. If you have a sanction that involves loss of phone, then you do not get to use the phone. If you are on cell restriction, but do not have a phone sanction then you are permitted to use the phone one time per week, which will take place on Wednesdays.

For those of you who have a TV but have no cable cord, a cable cord will be provided to you during the free cable period.

Finally, some questions have come up regarding the vaccination status of visitors once inperson visitation resumes. We are waiting on further information and clarification on this matter as little is known at this time.

As a reminder, wear your mask when you are out of your cell and practice social distancing. Wash your hands often and refrain from touching your facial area. Cell cleaning supplies are available on your housing units and can be requested from a Staff Member. Our Maintenance Department will continue ramping up their efforts at deep cleaning throughout the facility. Block workers on the housing units will also continue their increased role at keeping the housing units clean and sanitized.

Once again, thank you for your patience, understanding, and acceptance of COVID-19 and daily adjustments as we continue moving forward with a positive mindset.

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