

SCI-Huntingdon Fireside Chat 1-29-21

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's Fireside Chat where we update you on the Coronavirus and its impact on communities and SCI-Huntingdon.

At the beginning of the month, the state of Pennsylvania was seeing a daily increase of nearly 10,000 positive COVID-19 cases. Over the past week, the statistics show the number of new, positive cases has decreased. New daily cases have now been ranging from roughly 4,000 to 6,000. Obviously, it is the hopes of everyone this trend continues and the number of new cases continues to decline.

As many of you are already well aware, SCI-Huntingdon has not been immune to the Coronavirus. It comes to no surprise to see the virus is still impacting our facility as we have seen the recent re-opening of our Gym Isolation Unit. Our ultimate goal is to manage the virus, mitigate the spread, and monitor inmates who are experiencing symptoms. Please let Staff know if you are not feeling well so appropriate safety measures can be taken. The proper use of your mask, the washing of your hands, and keeping yourself a safe distance from others remains the most advisable method in battling this pandemic.

After reviewing facility statistics, there is some good news to report this week. In recent days, the number of inmates housed in our Gym Isolation Unit has decreased. We are hopeful this trend will continue as we remain steadfast in our COVID-19 approach.

At this time, there will be no increase or decrease to current cohort sizes. All current out-of-cell activities will remain intact. All institutional services currently being implemented will also remain intact.

There is an update to report on the out-of-stock tablets and shipment of back orders. Be advised that GTL has informed the Dept. of Corrections they have received the shipment of tablets. Commissary has been informed and tablets will be available for sale to the inmate population beginning on Thursday, February 4th, 2021. It should also be noted all back ordered tablets have been shipped and all requested refunds have been mailed to each facility.

Concerning the recent change in colors to the PLA tickets: The majority of you were informed of this change in December and red tickets continued to be accepted. The acceptance of red tickets has been extended until February 28th, 2021. If you have red tickets, use them prior to the end of February.

A reminder on the Jaycee Hoagie Sale: The hoagies will be arriving on Feb 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. Your housing unit will be assigned to one of these days.

And now, a Memorial Service will be conducted by Chaplain Rainey in remembrance of Inmate Joseph Edward Kent.

Thank you and have a good week.