

## Fireside Chat

12/18/20

Good Afternoon,

First, I'd like to say that SCI-Huntingdon has made it through the first week of the statewide system reset. As a reminder, this reset was necessary as a result of the substantial increase in positive COVID-19 cases in the communities of Pennsylvania and state prisons. Many businesses and establishments in Pennsylvania have been closed for a few weeks. Anyone watching the news or those of you staying in touch with your families have seen the dramatic impact this second wave of COVID-19 is having on the state of Pennsylvania.

There is some good news that came out this week. The Pennsylvania Department of Health and Governor Wolf announced that nearly 100,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia County will receive its own allotment of 13,650 doses.

If we remain patient, cooperative, and resilient; we will continue to move forward and conquer these challenging times. Let's keep doing the basics of wearing your mask, washing your hands, and practice social distancing when you are out of your cell as this has shown to be important mitigating factors in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Here at SCI-Huntingdon, we are proud of the work Staff and inmates have put into battling this pandemic. From sanitation to the services provided, we all are working toward the day when things can be somewhat normal and less challenging. SCI-Huntingdon has come a long way since earlier this year and we will make it through this reset we are currently in.

As you have noticed this past week, there have been a number of in-house moves that have occurred in which inmates were moved to other housing units. This was necessary due to the influx of inmates received at our institution. These internal moves were made for your benefit so that we did not have to cancel visits, etc. As a result of placing entire cohorts under enhanced quarantine status.

Today, the Activities Department resumed inmate concessions. Activities will continue to show recently purchased movies on the inmate channel. Currently, we are working on implementing therapeutic videos that will be shown on the inmate channel as well. A hoagie sale for the inmate population is also in the works.

The Chaplains Department continues to televise religious services on the inmate channel. This will continue through the holiday season.

Video visits, phone time, and kiosks continue to be available to the inmate population. Due to facility operation, we had to become flexible with the phone time at the end of the evening and we are running phones until approximately 9:45 PM.

Free cable TV and free envelopes continue to be available during these challenging times.

Smoking Cessation surveys are being handed out today. You are encouraged to completed these surveys.

Inmate workers – whether being called out to work or not, you will continue to receive compensation.

Psychiatry and Psychology will continue to function as will Parole, counseling, religious services, social work, education, and medical. If you have any concerns please send a request slip to the specific department that can answer your concern.

Thank you and have a good week.