

Fireside Chat

12/24/20

Good afternoon,

The state of Pennsylvania, its communities, and the prison systems continue to experience a high volume of COVID-19 cases. For that reason and your safety being paramount, the memo from Secretary Wetzel was put out yesterday on the inmate channel. Some of you may have also received a copy of that memo on your housing unit. In case you did not have a chance to review the memo, this is what it reads:

- Memo from Secretary Wetzel – Extension of 8 man cohorts

In light of this setback, we here at SCI-Huntingdon remain focused and committed to safety. We will continue doing our part in moving forward through this pandemic. We appreciate your efforts and patience through these times and thank you for your role in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

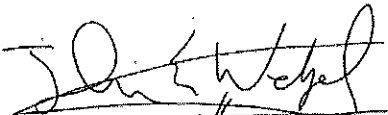
Some things to report this week:

- Holiday packages will be arriving on the Housing Units today
- Information on the upcoming hoagie sale will be posted on the housing units next week
- Free cable and free envelopes will continue as will movies on the inmate channel.
- A presentation from Shining Light Ministries will be shown on the inmate channel and therapeutic videos from Dr. Conte will be shown as well.

- The services provided by Psychology and Psychiatry Staff, Counselors, Chaplains, Parole Agents, Medical Personnel, Education, and Treatment Specialists will continue.
- Showers and Yard will continue as scheduled
- Video visits, phones, and kiosks will continue with the addition of 2 free emails from GTL as mentioned in Secretary Wetzel's memo.
- Inmate concessions will continue to be provided with assistance from the Activities Department.



TO: All Inmates

FROM: 
John E. Wetzel
Secretary of Corrections

DATE: December 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Extension of Cohort Size

In my December 10, 2020 memo to you, I was hopeful we would be able to increase cohort sizes from 8 to 16 on December 24th. Unfortunately, the cases both in the community, and our institutions continue to be high, and the safest course of action is to maintain our current posture of 8 man cohorts from now until January 4, 2021.

We know this is unwelcome news; however we will continue to provide all additional services outlined in the December 10th memo. In addition, we have been made aware that our kiosk vendor, GTL, has agreed to offer all inmates two free emails per week from now until further notice.

Once again, thank you for everything you're doing to help us through this pandemic as we work to keep you as safe as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact your unit team.