

## Fireside Chat    2-12-21

Welcome to this week's fireside chat.

We have some good news to report as there are no inmates currently housed in the Gym Isolation area. We have also experienced a reduction in the number of cohort groups who are on quarantine status in General Population. Communities also seem to be doing a bit better as the onset administration of the COVID-19 vaccine across Pennsylvania as Phase 1A continues its rollout. The number of new positive cases in Pennsylvania has been approximately 3,000 – 4,000 each day over the past 6 days. If you remember, Pennsylvania was frequently experiencing close to 10,000 new positive cases daily in December and January.

With this news, we are cautiously optimistic. However, we all know there is still work to be done. We must not waiver from the diligent effort that has gotten us this far. We must continue to move forward knowing that complacency will only take us backward. Continue your in-cell sanitation efforts, wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, wear your mask, and maintain distance between you and the next person. As a reminder, cleaning supplies are available on the housing units and can be requested.

We have started to receive questions about the vaccine and how that will look here at SCI-Huntingdon. As mentioned, the communities of Pennsylvania are still in Phase 1A of the COVID vaccine rollout. The prison system has been identified as Phase 1B. We have not received nor compiled all of the information as it pertains to vaccinations at SCI-Huntingdon, however, more information is forthcoming. Direction will be put out as details become clear and a plan becomes available.

Nearly 100 inmates were chosen randomly by Central Office to complete an inmate survey concerning the COVID-19 vaccine. This is a voluntary survey. There is no sign up and there is no need to ask Staff if you are on the list. If you were chosen for the survey, Staff will contact you. If you were randomly selected for the survey and the survey is completed, you will receive 2 free GTL emails. We appreciate those of you who have already completed the survey.

We would like to thank the Activities Department and the Jaycees Organization for the success of this week's hoagie delivery. As a reminder, please dispose of hoagie trash and all trash properly. All trash should be placed in the bags that block workers carry around.

At this time, there is no change to cohort sizes and there is no increase or decrease in services provided by the various departments here at SCI-Huntingdon.

Beginning Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, we will replay the Dr. Christian Conte therapeutic videos on Inmate channel 57 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and Noon. This is a 2 week program with new videos each day. Each day builds off the day before. We hope you take the opportunity to invest yourself in this therapeutic approach.

Thank you and have a good week.