

Fireside Chat 2-19-21

Welcome to this week's Fireside chat.

As some of you may already know, our Gym Isolation Unit was re-opened this past week. Despite this, we remain optimistic as we continue to work through the pandemic week by week. Some of you have been watching the news and have seen the number of positive Covid cases in Pennsylvania trickle downward. If you remember from last week's Fireside Chat, the state of Pennsylvania was reporting 3,000 – 4,000 new cases daily. Over the past 7 days, numbers continue to trend in a favorable direction as February 14th, 15th, and 16th saw less than 3,000 new daily cases. In fact, there were only 1,771 new cases reported on February 15th. These statistics and the onset of the COVID-19 vaccine provides reassurance and optimism that we are slowly winning the battle.

The administration of vaccines in Pennsylvania continues to be in Phase 1A. We fully understand there are questions regarding the vaccine here at SCI-Huntingdon. As mentioned last week, we have not received nor compiled all of the information. Once we receive the information and put together a solid plan, we will inform you of what we know and what the vaccination process will look like at our facility. This effort may possibly answer the questions you have.

Once again, and it cannot be emphasized enough, 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. Deep cleaning, decontamination, and sanitation efforts continue throughout the institution. Through this entire pandemic, our #1 goal has been Staff and Inmate safety. As a reminder, cleaning supplies are available on the housing units and can be requested.

Soon, you will be issued new white, cloth, masks. The new masks will be labeled with your name and number. The additional masks will allow you to remain in proper PPE while having your other issued masks laundered. These white, cloth masks will be considered proper dress and you will not be authorized to leave

your cell in any other face covering. Homemade masks are not authorized. Keep up the good work. Your actions have, and continue, to make a difference.

At this time, cohort sizes will remain the same. Our current cohort sizes allow for daily yard (or blockout) and daily showers. We encourage you to utilize the mail, phone, kiosks, and/or video visits to maintain contact with family and friends. There is no change to current out-of-cell activity or Staff services.

Thank you and have a good week.