

## Fireside Chat 3/12/21

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's fireside chat.

Due to the mass testing we were directed to conduct last week, we saw a substantial increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases here at SCI-Huntingdon. To keep in line with our existing mitigation efforts, these cases have been housed strategically and appropriately in collaboration the Department of Health and Central Office. At this time, our isolation units, enhanced quarantined cohorts, and institutional moves are being maintained per COVID-19 protocols. Our Medical Department has been providing extra care as we attempt to have our COVID numbers trend in a more favorable direction.

During our lockdown this past weekend, a deep clean of the institution was conducted. Please remember, it is important to inform a Staff member if you feel ill. Cleaning products on the housing units continue to be available for cell cleaning. Our Inmate Detail Workers continue to sanitize the phones and kiosks after each use. We continue with the theme of wearing your mask, washing your hands often, socially distance yourself from the next person when you are out of your cell, and avoid touching your face. Through this entire pandemic, this theme remains best practice

As mentioned in previous weeks, we will disseminate information concerning the COVID vaccine when we receive that information from Central Office and the Department of Health. We are planning to utilize Staff, CPS workers, and the inmate channel to get this information out when we receive it. The recent COVID-19 vaccination survey that took place on the housing units was just that.....a survey. You are not locked in based on the answer you provided. For example, if you said you were not interested in the vaccine during the survey, you will still be able to get the vaccine when the time comes. In fact, another survey will be conducted in the near future. Please note that we have not been informed as to when the vaccine will arrive at SCI-Huntingdon. We will keep you posted.

In case you have not yet been informed, this just came out yesterday. Effective Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> video visits will be extended until 8:00 PM. Your visitors can sign up accordingly.

We are pleased to announce the upcoming special meals:

- Angus beef in Meat Sauce - 3/13/21
- Angus beef in Chili - 3/15/21
- Double veal patty - 3/18/21

Thank you to our Food Service Department and kitchen workers in making this possible.

At this time, there are no changes to our institutional operation, cohort sizes, out-of-cell activities or centralized services.

Thank you and have a good week.