

Fireside Chat - 4/2/21

Welcome to this week's Fireside Chat. We will start out with some updates that have been posted on the inmate channel and bulletin boards.

Effective immediately, typewriters will no longer be available for purchase through commissary. Inmates desiring to purchase a typewriter must do so through the outside purchase approval process. The Swintec Model 2410CC typewriter is currently the only model authorized for new inmate purchases. This memo has been posted on Inmate Bulletin Boards and on the Inmate Channel.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has begun to issue a third stimulus payment to eligible individuals. If you receive a stimulus payment and currently owe financial obligations associated with your criminal sentence, 25% will be deducted to satisfy those obligations in accordance with Act 84 mandatory legislation. This memo has been posted on the Inmate Bulletin Boards and on the Inmate Channel.

The 2.0 Media Tablet is out of stock. All orders received prior to March 24 have been fulfilled and are in route to the facility. Media tablets that were ordered on/or after March 24 have not been fulfilled. Inmates that have a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) for the 2.0 Media Tablet already shipped or to be shipped to GTL, where a replacement is required, will not receive a replacement until the 2.0 Media Tablet is back in stock. A list of the inmates affected by this out of stock notification will be provided to each facility by the end of this week for Staff to review.

At this time, our isolation units remain closed and our enhanced quarantine groups have decreased dramatically since the recent mass testing. However, we all know how quickly this can change. We strongly encourage you to report symptoms to a Staff member right away as prompt treatment can help a COVID positive patient and mitigate a possible spread. Please continue to wear your masks, wash your hands, and practice social distancing. Please continue to practice good hygiene and utilize the cell cleaning supplies available on your housing unit.

COVID-related informational videos are being shown on the inmate channel. You are encouraged to take the time to view these. At the present time we are scheduled to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccines for the inmate population early next week. There is a plan in place to see that the entire inmate population is offered the vaccine. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a 1 shot vaccine as opposed to the 2 shots being done by other companies/vaccines. The reaction time for the vaccine is 7 days out. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine becomes effective at 28 days. If you have any symptoms associated with the vaccine please see that you work through the medical department

to address those concerns. Effective today and through the weekend, expect to see staff canvassing the inmate population to see if you are interested in getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. This is being done to assist in making the process a smooth one for all involved. We are encouraging you to accept the vaccine however it is important to know if you do report through the survey process that you are not interested, you can still receive the vaccine when it is administered. There will be a \$25.00 incentive offered to those who take the vaccine. The incentive will be posted to your account within a 14-day period, so please remain patient. We will also be offering special meals to celebrate the availability of the vaccine. Operationally we will remain under the current procedures. We have been in this battle for over a year and we welcome the news that the vaccine is arriving at SCI-Huntingdon.

Finally, there is no change to institutional operation including the size of the cohorts.

Thank you and have a good week.