

Fireside Chat 6-25-21

Welcome to this week's Fireside Chat.

The Department of Corrections continues to progress forward with 3 additional institutions receiving approval to move to the "new normal" phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although SCI-Huntingdon continues to wait for approval, the progression of these 3 additional institutions is a good sign.

As many of you are well aware, both Staff and inmates have met the challenge of accepting and adjusting to the daily changes brought on by COVID-19 since the early part of 2020. This pandemic has been a new challenge for corrections departments everywhere. Correctional facilities are unique institutions that pose many challenges when trying to prevent the spread of a virus. Strategies and practices are evolving and sometimes change daily. We appreciate your ongoing patience as we navigate through COVID-19. At this time, we are in the process of reviewing inmate workers and assessing whether or not they are vaccinated.

We are pleased to announce the majority of you have already received the vaccine. As mentioned last week, the COVID-19 vaccine continues to be available at SCI-Huntingdon for those who have not yet received it. The vaccines we have on site will expire on August 7th. If you have not received the vaccine and wish to do so, please act immediately. You can let a Staff member on your housing unit know and you can send a request slip to the Medical Department to get scheduled. If you receive the vaccine, monitor yourself for symptoms and report to a Staff member if you have a severe headache, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, and/or leg pain.

As a reminder, Commonwealth facilities must continue to follow guidelines that may be a little different than the community. Masks are still required and social distancing and frequent handwashing continue to be best practice at mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Keeping your living area clean is important and cell cleaning supplies are available on the housing units by requesting them from a Staff member.

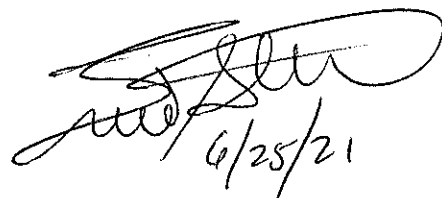
The Career Re-entry Fair wraps up today. SCI-Huntingdon's Education Department has reported the fair was a success with nearly 100 inmates participating. Many good comments and Positive feedback were received from the inmate population.

On Friday, July 2nd, there will be a special video presentation on Channel 57 at 8:30 A.M. This presentation is from Shining Light Ministries and offers an opportunity for hope and encouragement. Fans of the NFL will recognize one of the presenters in the video. That presenter is Tony Dungy, who coached in the NFL for 13 seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Indianapolis Colts, eventually leading the Colts to a Super Bowl victory. There are fliers hanging on the housing units promoting this video presentation.

General population inmates will receive a plastic bottle of orange juice with their breakfast Sunday 6/27.

As a general reminder, Counselors and Psychological services continue to be available on the housing unit. The Chaplain's Office, Parole, Law Library, Education, Treatment, and Activities Staff continue to provide services to the inmate population.

Thank you and have a good week.



A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date 6/25/21.