Welcome to this week’s Fireside Chat.

First, a few weekly reminders:

The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is still available on site with an expiration date of August 7th. If you wish to receive the vaccine and have not already, please send a request slip to the Medical Department. Receiving the vaccine provides an opportunity to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. 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.

Cell cleaning supplies are available on your housing units and can be requested from a Staff member. Sanitation, wearing your mask while indoors, washing your hands frequently, and socially distancing yourself when you leave your cell continue to be best practices in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

Please remember, masks must still be worn while you are indoors.

We will be going back to the sick call process that was utilized prior to COVID. Moving forward, if you sign up for sick call, you will be laid in the day medical is scheduled to see you. Once seen by Medical the lay in will be lifted. Housing Unit Staff will enforce this.

Effective Monday, 7/19/21 at 0600 SCI Huntingdon Cohorts will move from tier cohorts to full block cohorts.

Effective Monday, 7/19/21, SCI-Huntingdon takes another positive step forward as we progress through the COVID-19 pandemic. We are currently putting together a plan that will possibly allow for 2 hours of yard time in the morning and 2 hours of yard time in the afternoon for housing units. This will be an attempt to increase out-of-cell activity. This attempt will be contingent upon operational need of the facility.

Effective Thursday, 7/22/21, SCI Huntingdon will reopen the visiting room for in-person visits. Visits are limited to four visitors per inmate in an attempt to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Each inmate is permitted to have three visits per month, one of which may be on a Saturday or Sunday. This is in addition to the five-video visit quota. In-person visits must be scheduled via the inmate visitation
system on the Pennsylvania DOC public website. Again, in-person visits must be scheduled by your visitor(s) through the DOC public website. Visits must be scheduled three days in advance. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the visitor’s correct information (i.e.: date of birth and address matching their ID/Driver’s License) on your Visiting List so that they will be permitted to visit. Custody Level 5 (RHU) visits will remain video visit only.

Visiting Rules for In-person visits:

- A brief physical embrace will be permitted upon entry to the visiting room; no kissing.
- All visitors age two and older will be issued a mask by the Department. If a visitor refuses the Department-issued mask or fails to properly wear the mask during the visit, the visit may be terminated.
- Masks must be worn correctly at all times, covering nose and mouth;
- No vending machine access at this time;
- No photos in visiting room at this time;
- Inmates in any type of quarantine or isolation will not receive in-person visits.

The memo regarding in-person visits has been posted to the inmate channel and inmate bulletin boards. It includes the information that was just presented as well as the housing unit schedule for visits.

The current Video Visitation schedule will remain in place. The Video Visitation schedule will be re-evaluated in the near future. Information will be provided as changes occur.

As many of you are already well aware since we have been through constant change since the onset of COVID-19, patience is key as we all become accustomed to the new schedules and routines for yard, in-person visits and other daily operations.

Thank you and have a good week.