

**TO: ALL CONCERNED**

**DATE: March 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2021**

**RE: Town Hall Q & A**

The Town Hall this week was in 2 parts, one being with Dr. Longnecker discussing some specific COVID questions and the mass testing. The second part was from the questions you sent.

Several questions were asked of Dr. Longnecker and I will provide a brief answer.

- What if I have COVID and don't know it and get the vaccine?

He explained that there were absolutely no concerns with this and the vaccine should be administered. He indicated that there is no need to test people prior to receiving the vaccine.

- I have Hepatitis and TB, should I get the vaccine? What about other illnesses?

Dr. Longnecker said there are no concerns relative to other disease processes that individuals have and that they should receive the vaccine.

- How will the vaccine clinic work?

Superintendent Clark indicated that direction will be coming out as we have reviewed several other facilities plans. It will go similarly to how we did the flu vaccine clinic last fall.

- If I already have immunity because I had COVID, is that not better than being vaccinated?

Ultimately, immunity is good but he indicated that you should still be vaccinated for further protection. It is what is indicated by the Medical field.

Questions from inmate requests:

As I share from week-to-week, our viral load is currently in the high range. Ultimately that means that as our waste goes out through our sewage plant, there is still much shedding of this virus and it is picked up through this test.

Questions regarding Commissary changes or additions need to go to CAM Jackson. He routinely sends them to the Commissary Committee Chairperson.

1. What happened to the TVs in Commissary?

The TVs ran out quickly due to the number of purchases. I inquired and was told that they are preparing to get many more in stock soon.

2. I/A Kiosk not working.

I inquired about this and we are aware of the problems. Ultimately, it requires a Vendor coming in so hopefully they have come in or are coming in soon.

3. What is going on with J Unit becoming another RTU?

We are making some movement in that direction. That was something that RDS Wingard discussed when he recently toured. We will keep everyone posted on the progress.

4. Why aren't testing and shots mandated for staff?

This would be at the direction of the Governor as ultimately, we follow his direction. He at this point has not mandated either for Commonwealth employees. In terms of tests, just like an inmate, if a staff member refuses a test, they have to quarantine for 14 days. I know of no staff members here that have refused to test to date.

5. Library/Library operations?

This is an ongoing problem and it has been impacted by the surge of COVID. We are making every attempt to get inmates to the Law Library that need it and hope that soon we will be operating by Cohorts again.

6. Why aren't we in 16-person Cohorts?

Given everything we have going on, there are no 16-person Cohorts at this time. A reminder, this is at the approval of Central Office to go to larger Cohorts and not a local decision.

7. I can't take the vaccine for religious reasons, what am I going to get as others are going to get the \$25.00?

The \$25.00 for getting the vaccination was a decision of Central Office. There was no discussion or plan to provide inmates such as those inmates that are not getting any other stipend. We locally are giving all inmates the items that we're going to put into the bag for receiving the vaccine. We are giving them out as just a special treat.

- Free Cable is through April.
- Mass Testing. There was a lot of direction put out today on that. Please understand this is a **means to an end** and was at the direction of Central Office. If we can appropriately care for our vulnerable inmates, it will help the entire facility and I believe, get us back to normal sooner. Mass testing has been done at multiple facilities and usually the entire population. We liked the idea of just doing vulnerable inmates and believe it will help us get to where we need to be.

Thanks for your cooperation

Superintendent Clark

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MRC', written over the printed name 'Superintendent Clark'.

MRC/aae