

Fireside Chat 3-26-21

Welcome to this week's Fireside Chat.

First and foremost, we understand the COVID-19 pandemic has been a roller coaster ride for everyone at SCI-Huntingdon just as it has been for family and friends in the community. The most recent mass testing was a frustration to our Staff and Inmate population, however, the Department of Health deemed it necessary in order to stop the possibility of an outbreak at SCI-Huntingdon. Even though the mass testing and recent 72 hour deep clean took us back a couple of steps; we as an institution have emerged stronger, healthier, and further ahead.

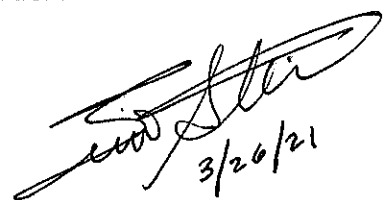
Due to the positive results from our mass testing, we had to re-open several of our isolation units. Now that the quarantine periods for these positive results have concluded, these units once again have been closed. Deep cleaning continues throughout the institution including the sanitation of phones and kiosks after each use. We thank the unit staff and inmate workers who continue to make this a top priority. Please remember that cleaning supplies for your cell remain available on your housing unit and can be requested from unit staff. Also, please remember to let a Staff member know if you are feeling ill so that immediate medical protocols can be initiated to address the possibility of positive cases and potential exposures.

As we have mentioned in the past, complacency is not an option especially during these late stages of the pandemic. As we eagerly await our turn for the vaccine, it is imperative that masks are worn properly, hands are washed often, and social distancing is practiced when you are outside of your cell. We are hopeful there are more COVID-19 days behind us than in front of us.

At this time there is no change to cohort sizes or current inmate services. Psychology, Medical, Psychiatry, Counseling, Parole, Barber Shop, Commissary, Religious Services, Activities, treatment programs, Education, concessions, yard schedules, showers, phones, kiosks, video visits, cable TV, inmate mail system, and Law Library remain in operation and continue to function according to COVID-19 protocols.

Passover will be observed for 9 days beginning at sunset Saturday, March 27th and ending at nightfall on Sunday, April 4th. Inmates observing Passover will receive 3 boxes of Matzah prior to the start of Passover, which will be used for the duration of Passover. Jewish/Yahwist inmates observing Passover who signed up for the Kosher Passover bags will receive them beginning at lunch on Saturday, March 27th through dinner on Sunday, April 4th. Jewish inmates who purchased optional Seder Meal items, along with those only receiving DOC provided items, will have them delivered by Food Service Staff on Monday, March 29th. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, meals will be hand delivered. The Seder Meal items will be cooked and delivered to each participating inmate in accordance to items they ordered.

Thank you and have a good week.



3/26/21