

Special Fireside Chat 8-4-21

Welcome to a special fireside chat.

Today, we received direction from Central Office concerning our unvaccinated inmate population. COVID concerns have once again become an urgent matter for the Department of Corrections, especially with the appearance of the Delta-Variant which you may have seen on the news. The risk is high and the Department of Corrections is taking every precaution as we have a duty to protect the unvaccinated inmate population.

UNVACCINATED INMATES: Beginning today, we will be moving all unvaccinated inmates to one housing unit. Cohort sizes on the unvaccinated housing unit will be based on the COVID risk level of the facility. To further protect this population of inmates, unvaccinated inmates will not be pulled for work. Unvaccinated inmates will not be permitted to have contact visits, but may continue utilizing the virtual visiting system. Again, we have a duty to protect the unvaccinated inmate population and safety is our #1 goal, not punishment.

Compliance with masks, social distancing, washing hands, and cleaning are more important than ever at this time. We will continue to deep clean areas around the facility and cell cleaning supplies are available on your housing unit for cell cleaning.

If you have received the vaccine within the past 28 days, you will not be moved to the unvaccinated housing unit. If you choose to receive the vaccine today, you will not be moved to the unvaccinated housing unit. If you wish to receive the vaccine today, Unit Team members will be coming around on the housing unit. You can inform them of your wish to receive the vaccine and the Medical Department will be notified.

We have been informed by the Bureau of Health Care the Moderna vaccine could be available at SCI-Huntingdon by the end of the week.

VACCINATED INMATES: The vaccinated inmate population is considered less of a risk in terms of COVID. For that reason, our goal for the day to day routine for vaccinated inmates will remain as normal as operationally feasible.

Thank you and we appreciate your patience and cooperation as we comply with the direction from Central Office concerning the safety of our unvaccinated inmates.