

Fireside Chat 6-17-21

Last week, it was mentioned the COVID19 vaccines that are on site would expire on June 23rd. That expiration date is incorrect. The vaccines that are on site will expire on August 7th, therefore, you still have some time to get your vaccine but you must act immediately. If you have not received the vaccine and wish to do so, you must send a request slip to the Medical Department.

If you have received the vaccine, please monitor yourself and let the Medical Department or a Staff member know if you are experiencing symptoms from the vaccine. Please inform Staff if you are experiencing a severe head ache, abdominal pain, leg pain, and/or shortness of breath.

This week, we have been ordered to complete additional COVID testing at SCI-Huntingdon. In order to comply with this direction, those tests have been conducted and we await the results.

SCI-Huntingdon continues to wait for further direction as it relates to our new normal.

Commonwealth facilities, which includes State Correctional Institutions, must continue to wear masks, wash hands, and practice social distancing. You may see COVID-19 restrictions being lifted in the community, however, Commonwealth Facilities are required to continue adhering to COVID-19 protocols until we receive further direction.

Cell cleaning supplies remain available on the housing unit and can be requested from a Staff member.

There have been some changes to COVID-19 protocols regarding paroles, max outs, and outside medical trips.

- For paroles, max outs, and releases: Regardless of whether you have been vaccinated or not, you will no longer be required to quarantine but you will be tested prior to leaving.
- For unvaccinated inmates returning to the institution: You will be required to quarantine.
- Vaccinated inmates returning from an outside trip may still require testing and/or quarantine based on the nature of your trip.

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As mentioned in a memo sent out in April, typewriters are no longer available for purchase through commissary. If you desire to purchase a typewriter you must do so through the outside purchase approval process as outlined in section 2 of the DC-ADM 815. The Swintec Model 2410CC typewriter is currently the only model authorized for purchases. The Model 2410CC is a basic typewriter with no storage memory, no display, and no Spell proof functions. The specs for the typewriter have been posted to the inmate channel.

It has been brought to our attention there have been requests regarding the purchase of bigger fans through commissary. This has been put out to the Central Region Commissary Committee in the past and that request continues to be denied.

Next week, June 21-25, the Education Department, along with Reentry Staff, is hosting the Annual Reentry Job Fair. Inmates were identified to participate in this event based on their program participation and potential date for parole. Next week, these inmates will be participating in sessions to gather information for reentry specific to their geographic area of reentry or special interest areas such as treatment, family and human services, financial education, employment, services for those who are 65+ years of age, and veterans.

This event is being held at all facilities throughout the Commonwealth. The sessions will be recorded and played on the inmate channel at a later time. The resources given to the participants will be available for copying in the library for all inmates.

The Giant Bake Sale items will be arriving in July. More details will be provided once dates are finalized.

The Activities Department has collected the cash slips for the TV remote controls and Board Games. We will keep you updated as things progress.

Thank you and have a good week.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. J. [unclear]", located in the bottom right corner of the page.