

Date: 4/1/2020 @ 0900

### Conference Call Minutes, COVID-19 (Jail Administrators)

#### Review:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> client meeting related to COVID-19
- Seeing COVID-19 in the facilities now
- Testing for COVID-19 has increased
  - 64 COVID test performed by PCM
  - 26 employee/custody staff
    - 4 positives (3 custody / 1 PCM employee)
  - COVID Testing by state (performed by PCM)
    - PA- 13 pending / 2 +COVID
    - MD- 3 negative
    - WV- 6 negative
    - NY- 1 negative
- New rapid COVID-19 test now available. PCM performed 3. All 3 returned back negative. Lab follow-up testing was all positive.

**Food Handlers:** Inmates that are assisting with food preparation and meal delivery have either direct/indirect contact with the entire population. PrimeCare recommends the following for this unique portion of the population, as they can spread illness rapidly over a large contingent of individuals in custody as well as correctional staff.

- Food Handlers should be divided by shift and housed in separate housing units within the facility. This will aid in the case of a food worker exposure and quarantine.
- Food Handlers should be assigned to specific shifts and not be permitted to work with food handlers from other shifts.
- Facilities with know/suspected cases of COVID-19 - Food Handlers should be permitted to utilize surgical masks during their shift.
- Food Handlers per PCM policy, should be evaluated before entering the kitchen area for fever/illness.
- Food handlers should have ample access to handwashing supplies. They should also be prompted routinely during their shift to wash their hands.

**Masking of Medical Staff:** Due to the limited amount of medical staff available at most facilities and the close proximity that medical staff maintains with the inmate population. PrimeCare Medical recommends that medical staff be masked during the following encounters.

- Medical staff should be masked while in close proximity of a patient during the intake process.
- Quarantined Units: Medical staff should be masked when entering the unit and when providing any care that requires physical contact with a patient (i.e. B/P, temperatures, glucose monitoring, etc.)
- General Population (non-quarantined) Units: Masks are not required when on General Population units.
- Staff can utilize a surgical mask up to a week or discarded when noted to be physically soiled or damaged.

PCM will wait to field concerns from the facilities before implementing any specific masking procedure (24-48 hours)

**Decentralizing Medical**-Continue to look at ways to bring services to the patient rather than transporting them to the medical department.

**Questions / Comment:**

Masking of medical staff will not be received well by correctional staff – Scenarios explained (see masking of medical staff above). Medical has close proximity to possible contagious individuals. Medical Department staffing is small in numbers. Nurses going off sick can cause staffing issues.

PCM food worker recommendations are different than the CDC – PCM making recommendations based on what we are seeing in our facilities and in conjunction with CDC recommendations. (see food handlers above).

Should medical staff in high risk areas wear PPD? – Yes, medical should don mask when around symptomatic patients. Medical staff does not need to wear it on GP units.

Are K95 masks from China acceptable? – PCM response was, anything is better than nothing. If we can source them, we will use them.

Are we considering cloth mask like the PA DOC? If we cannot source traditional surgical masks, PCM will definitely consider.

Should staff returning back to work from being off r/t +COVID or suspected COVID wear a surgical mask at work?  
– Yes

Inmates vs. facility kitchen staff wearing masks – If suspected COVID is in the facility – Yes, staff should wear masks.

Face shield in lieu of surgical mask – Face shields are to be used in conjunction with surgical mask, not to be used as primary protection.