

Date: 4/22/2020 @ 0900

Conference Call Minutes, COVID-19 (Jail Administrators)

Review:

Testing and PCM confirmed cases: 110 total confirmed cases of COVID-19

Supplies:

- PPEs continue to be in high demand and difficult to obtain. Masks more than anything.
- Correctional facilities qualify as “first responder / public safety” entities. PCM is requesting that the facilities reach out directly to government agencies to source PPEs. For Pennsylvania PEMA set forth new guidelines this week related to sourcing of PPEs.
- Recent update from CDC: Gowns are no longer required while performing temperature checks.
- Return to work guidance for health care workers: Recent guidance from Pennsylvania indicated 10 days before returning to work from COVID-19 positive results or absence of fever. CDC and New York State indicated 7 days from COVID-19 positive results or absence of fever. Currently PCM is following the CDC’s recommendations.

Isolation Units vs Quarantine:

- Isolation Unit: To be utilized for COVID-19 individuals that are symptomatic or positive.
- Quarantine Unit: To be utilized for individuals that are not symptomatic.

Out of cell time:

- Complete Lock Down / Modified inmate out of cell time
 - Need to examine out of cell time. PCM will need to discuss with each facility. Consider allowing the following:
 - Small groups, less than 10 individuals out at a time.
 - Must wear masks
 - Must practice social distancing (Must maintain at least six feet between inmates)
 - Frequent cleaning of high touch services
 - Cell doors
 - Railings
 - Tablets

BHS Newsletter:

- Concern with mental health aspect with the inmate population. Prolonged isolation/quarantine may have unfavorable effects on a patient’s mental health.
- The first mental health newsletter was released.
 - Was designed to be distributed to the inmate population
 - Purpose of the first newsletter: Attempted to provide information to the inmate population
 - Hopefully decreases the fear of the unknown
 - Provide education related to COVID-19
 - Additional newsletters will expand and discuss other topics
 - Continued knowledge of COVID-19
 - Addressing anxiety
 - Importance of out of cell time (if possible)

- Newsletter is available in Spanish
- We can customize a newsletter for correctional staff if requested by the facility. Please contact PCM if interested.

Laundering of Cloth Masks (kitchen workers / food handlers):

- Recommend frequent laundering of cloth mask
 - “Fresh” mask for each kitchen shift.

Ramadan - 4/23/2020 (sundown)(unless the moon is not seen tonight the 22nd then it will start Friday the 24th)- 5/23/2020 (sundown):

- Some modifications this year related to COVID-19
- Allow prayer inside the cell, no communal prayer.
- Meals in the cell
- Large communal meal at the end of Ramadan - This will need to be readdressed closer to 5/23/2020

Questions:

- What are the mask recommendations for PCM staff?
 - N-95 masks should be utilized when PCM staff is in close contact of symptomatic or COVID-19 positive patients or in cases with possible aerosolization. Surgical masks should be worn at all other times. N-95 masks should be utilized up to a week unless they become soiled or damaged.