

COVID-19 Update - July 13, 2020

Hi all-

Happy Monday! It was anything but a slow weekend with test results coming in all throughout the weekend. We're especially appreciative of the VA for all their work to get tests turned around as quickly as possible. Everything about this public health crisis has been dynamic and fluid, but that is especially true with point in time testing. Getting test results promptly is critical to being able to act on that information.

Mass Testing Results: Between B and C blocks, we collected 659 samples on individuals who were not exhibiting any symptoms associated with COVID-19. 134 returned negative, 514 returned as asymptomatic positive, and 11 returned inconclusive or invalid and require retesting. So what do we do with these results? We move people in order to separate positives from negatives. Asymptomatic positives are co-located in cohorts to undergo a quarantine period where they will be monitored for the development of symptoms. People testing negative are co-located in cohorts as well. Up next in our mass testing effort will be F block at ISCC and we're working to schedule that testing based on available lab testing capacity.

Earlier today, we also had a person in custody at the St. Anthony Work Camp who tested positive for COVID-19 through the use of the ID NOW instrument. The individual was identified for testing after he presented with symptoms during a medical screening. The gentleman is experiencing mild symptoms and is in medical isolation. The tier where he was living is on medical quarantine for observation.

Departmentwide, our totals are as follows: 1,581 tested, 92 pending, 798 negative, 41 positive, 641 asymptomatic positive, and 9 inactive (either medically-cleared or have been released from IDOC).

Staff Testing and Results: Over the weekend, we had no additional reports of staff testing positive for COVID-19. Today, we had 1 staff member from ISCC test positive. The staff member had previously been directed to quarantine because of close contact with another person testing positive.

We expect to receive the results of our first round of mass testing for staff later this evening, and we want to make sure those results are communicated to the individuals who were tested before we release results. The remainder of staff at ISCC will be tested tomorrow starting at 0600 hrs.

Tomorrow, we'll also be updating our COVID-19 tracking sheet on the website to include staff testing results by worksite. Prior to the IDOC-directed mass testing and the use of the ID NOW instrument on symptomatic staff, staff test results were self-reported. The totals we've been reporting are cumulative and don't reflect the number of people who have recovered and returned to work.

It's going to be another busy week. Communication is always a challenge in prolonged events like this, and the uncertainty can be exacerbated when people don't know where to look or who to contact to find information. We'll be updating a number of FAQ's for staff and the public this week. By the end of the week, we'll be standing up a COVID hotline for family and friends of people in our custody to check on their loved ones. In addition to being able to answer questions, the hotline also will provide an additional avenue for people to share their concerns. I'll have more on that later this week.

Until tomorrow, please stay safe and take care of yourself!

Thanks-
Josh