

COVID-19 Update - July 20, 2020

Hi all-

It's Monday, but it's also so start of Probation and Parole Week, so let's start there.

July 19-25 is Probation and Parole Supervision Week across the country. Similar to Corrections Professionals' Week earlier this year, COVID is changing how we celebrate a week dedicated to honoring our Probation and Parole staff. While we will be celebrating differently, we will celebrate nonetheless. I'm pretty sure I still have water in my lungs from getting in the dunk tank at D4 last year -- their aim was far better than I imagined. I'll be spared a similar fate this year, but I know the districts and morale task forces have lots of smaller events planned across the state. As we kick off this special week, please know we're thinking about you and we appreciate you! We'll have more throughout the week.

**Board of Correction Meeting:** Earlier today, the Idaho Board of Correction met. It was a busy meeting. In addition to receiving a COVID update, the Board took action on a number of items. Tomorrow, I'll share a more detailed breakdown of the Board meeting.

**Staff Testing:** It was a somewhat uneventful weekend with no additional positive tests being reported. Today, we had three staff report positive tests including two non-security staff at ISCC and a staff member from D1. We also received the results from our first mass staff testing event for SICI. Of the 83 staff tested, all 83 were negative! Those are encouraging results, and it's indicative that the early efforts to contact trace and quarantine are having the intended impact. Next up will be the remaining SICI staff to be tested tomorrow, and Thursday will be the start of testing for ISCI staff.

**Incarcerated Population Test Results:** Here's a quick recap of where we are with test results for the incarcerated population. As of this evening, we've tested 1817 people. 141 are pending, 940 are negative, 62 are positive with symptoms, 557 are asymptomatic positives, and 117 are no longer active.

**COVID Hotline:** The COVID Hotline is ready! The hotline number is (208) 658-2199. A couple things to note: We're going to give this a shot in hopes it will be a helpful avenue for people to get information or share concerns and complaints. At the outset and while we get a better sense of the utility of a hotline like this, the number will ring to a voicemail. We have two staff members dedicated to checking messages frequently, and we will be tracking all of the inquiries and concerns shared through this service. We'll also be tracking actions taken and response times. This will be a work in progress, but we're excited to get it launched and see how to make it useful for everyone.

For staff with COVID questions, please continue to use the HR hotline at (208) 287-3328.

That's all for tonight. Happy P&P Week, and I hope all of you stay safe and well!

Thanks-  
Josh