

COVID-19 Update 07.21.2020

Hello everyone,

Since it's Probation & Parole Appreciation Week, I thought it would be a good time to highlight some of the ways P&P staff have stepped up during the pandemic to help our agency and those on supervision succeed. On top of significantly shifting operations to create staffing cohorts and move to curbside field supervision, P&P staff have jumped at the chance to help people in need. Making emergency food deliveries to people on supervision who are quarantine? Check. Volunteering to staff posts in our prisons and our staff testing tent? Check. Providing Advanced Practices classes via Zoom so people on supervision can complete programming during COVID? Check. Thank you for everything you are doing!

**Face coverings** – A big thank you to Reform Alliance, for sending us 50,000 medical masks! These will be distributed to each facility, beginning with those that have positive cases. We'll provide each staff member and each incarcerated person with 4 of the medical masks. ISCC and SICI have already received theirs. Our state epidemiologists are recommending we move to medical masks, particularly in facilities with known positive cases. They are advising that we can safely reuse these masks. Medical masks should be folded in half after use (insides touching) and set aside for at least one day before reusing.

**COVID-19 Info Line** – Josh mentioned last night that we launched an information phonenumber yesterday for COVID questions. That number is (208) 658-2199. We're hoping this will be a place for concerned citizens to get information about the current situation in our facilities. This phone line *will not* be a place for anyone to find out their COVID test results. If someone leaves a facility on parole, and has a test result pending, a designated staff person will call the parolee as soon as the results become available.

**Staff testing** – We completed testing of SICI staff today. On Thursday, 7/23, testing for ISCI staff begins. We've learned of four additional staff testing positive for COVID today and they represent the following work sites: ISCC, SICI, SBWCC, and East Boise CRC. Despite the low number of new positive staff cases in recent days, we continue to have large numbers of staff out on quarantine due to exposure. The leadership team is working on plans to bring relief to those facilities who are most directly impacted.

**Incarcerated population** – We have learned that 93 individuals in Eagle Pass, TX, are on quarantine status after having been exposed to a staff member who tested positive for COVID. The affected housing units are D1 and D2 and we're told the officer last reported to work on 7/17. Staff in Eagle Pass have been required to wear masks for the past several weeks so the risk of exposure should be minimal and none of the residents in Eagle Pass have shown symptoms of COVID at this point.

Testing numbers to date are: 1,870 tested, 141 pending, 993 negative, 62 positive with symptoms, 556 asymptomatic positive, and 118 inactive (which includes those who were previously positive and have recovered or have been released from custody).

Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Best,  
Bree

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