

COVID-19 Update - August 04, 2020

Hi All-

Apologies for another late email. I made another detour to the Orchard Extension (OREX), and this time I had company.

**OREX:** I was accompanied to OREX this evening by Jared Larsen from Governor Little's office. Jared and Governor Little have been especially supportive of IDOC throughout the public health crisis by making sure we had the resources we needed to respond appropriately, and they also were supportive of our efforts to pursue emergency housing options. Deputy Director Bree Derrick, Chief of Prisons Chad Page, and a host of others also were on site today to make sure the transition was smooth. In fairness, a pile of administrators showing up usually gets in the way of progress, but it was reassuring to walk the tiers and hear mostly positive comments from the guys who just moved in. There are still lots of questions, but staff there have been rocking it, and held question and answer sessions on all of the tiers today. While we were there, CenturyLink was getting phone service restored to the tiers.

There are so many moving parts and considerations that have to go into a move like this. I'm blown away by how careful and thoughtful staff were in planning and implementing this move, and the fact we've had so few issues is a credit to their effort.

**Staff Testing:** I can't tell you how nice it is to see a slowing in positive staff cases. Today, we had one additional positive reported. The staff member, from ISCC, last worked on 7/15 and no additional contacts were identified.

**Incarcerated Individual Testing:** We're still on course with our mass testing events this week. As a disclaimer, there can be a bit of lag time between when the samples are taken and when they get entered on our tracking log. As of this evening, we're showing 2,620 people tested, 107 pending, 1,578 negative results, 57 symptomatic positives, 155 asymptomatic positives, and 723 cases no longer considered active.

I hope you have a great night. Stay safe and please take care of yourself.

Thanks-  
Josh