

COVID-19 Update 8.14.2020

Happy Friday Everyone!

Given that Josh and Bree are practicing what they have been preaching and are taking some well-deserved time off with their families, I get the privilege of providing your COVID-19 update tonight.

Staff: The number of positive test results for staff remains at 99. That is two days in a row with no new staff cases. Your diligence in monitoring your health and staying home when you are not feeling well, is really paying off!

Inmate Testing: Our updated numbers as of 6:00 p.m. 8/14/20 (not including the mass testing this week):

Tested - 4,429 Pending - 82 Negative - 3,254 Positive - 63 Asymptomatic Positive - 269 Inactive - 761
Facilities generating pending tests are CAPP - 1, EBCRC - 3, IFCRC - 1, ISCC - 31, ISCI - 4, Nampa CRC - 2, NICI - 3, SBWCC - 5, SICI - 16, SAWC - 3, TVCRC - 13
Eagle Pass is still reporting 20 tests with 17 Negative and 3 Positive

Testing Schedule Next Week:

Tuesday 8/18 - ISCI Medical Annex, Long Term Care, & Unit 14

Wednesday 8/19 - CAPP Staff & CAPP Residents

Thursday 8/20 - ISCI Unit 7 & Unit 10

A special THANK YOU to Cheryl Iseri, Kim King, Kristina Waldram, Kelsey Craig, Kari Nussen, Jeff Lojewski, Mike Evans, our Tent Team, and our Saltzer Team. Without you, we could not get our testing goals accomplished. Thank you for all you do to support the testing that helps to keep our staff and residents safe.

New RDU at ISCC: This week we resumed transports from county jails across the state. In order to more easily process folks coming into our facilities that have tested positive for COVID-19, Warden Christensen and his team are working hard to create an RDU at ISCC. An additional RDU will allow us to place residents that are COVID positive directly into our COVID units, where they can be monitored by medical staff.

Final Thoughts:

Before I wish you all a wonderful weekend, I want to take a moment to echo what I have heard Josh and Bree saying for months - you are AWESOME! Every day for almost six months, I have been taken back by the hard work and dedication I see. I could write pages (don't worry, I won't) about the creative problem solving, teamwork, and tenacity I have seen displayed by so many of you. I have been humbled by your willingness to step up to whatever the COVID challenge of the day is. I have seen case managers taking on video conferencing with the court; education instructors and POs helping at the testing tent; Wardens and Deputy Wardens reorganizing blocks, tiers, and programming; and our payroll folks spending hours upon hours making sure our checks are correct in the face of so many pay codes! What really impresses me is that despite all of the additional demands that COVID has put upon us, you continue to perform at such a high level. I know you are tired, yet you work tirelessly to keep those in our custody safe. I know you want COVID to be over, yet you find creative ways to deal with the distancing and to stay in touch with those on supervision. I know you are "Zoomed" out, but yet you keep showing up in those Hollywood squares so that our work continues! THANK YOU!!

As Josh and Bree say – take care of yourself, take care of each other. It is the only way we are going to make it through this. I am so grateful that we are doing it together.

Christine

Christine Starr
Chief of Staff