

COVID-19 Update 08.25.2020

Hi all-

Let's begin with a brief update on **out-of-state moves**. Today, another 149 men moved from the Eagle Pass, TX facility to the Saguaro Correctional Center in AZ. This brings the total number of men in AZ to approximately 300 and leaves just over 300 in TX. As a reminder, all residents will be moved out of TX before the end of September 2020. Big thank you to Tim Higgins and his contract monitoring crew for preparing for the transition from TX to AZ and for being on the ground managing operations during the moves!

Our COVID-19 numbers are slowing, but we're not out of the woods yet. Please continue to wear, and wear correctly, appropriate PPE at all times. I've seen a few people in the community wearing masks below their noses – this is like carrying an umbrella with a hole in it during a rainstorm. Your mask needs to cover your nose *and* mouth to be effective.

Staff COVID Update -- After a little more than a week without a new positive staff case, we have had a couple staff members test positive this week. Yesterday, we received four positive test results for staff at CAPP and today we added one staffer from ISCI. No large-scale staff testing is scheduled for this week; however, we continue to offer ID Now testing to anyone who becomes symptomatic.

Incarcerated Individual Testing and Results -- As Josh mentioned on Friday, testing for this week is focused on the population at ISCI. We began today by testing ISCI Unit 16 and the Infirmary and plan to test Units 8, 9 and 11 on 8/26, and Units 13 & 15 on 8/27. Testing schedules are always subject to change based on conditions on the ground, but that's what the plan is currently.

Testing results from last week were very encouraging: of all the tests completed at ISCI's Unit 14, Annex Building, and Long-term Care area, all but one of these tests were negative. The one person who was positive had been residing in a 1-person cell in Unit 14 prior to his test.

We also received the tests back from the CAPP facility and all of those were negative, except for one sample that needs to be rerun. These trends are going in the right direction, but we also have two men currently hospitalized for COVID-related illness (one in ID and one in Eagle Pass, TX), which serves as a stark reminder of the very real, very serious impacts this virus can have. We hope that both men will have a full and speedy recovery.

Our current totals stand at: 6,101 tested, 90 pending, 4,796 negative, 47 positive, 177 asymptomatic positive, and 991 inactive.

Eagle Pass is reporting 25 tests with 17 negative, 4 positive, and 4 pending. We do not yet have results from the tests taken at Saguaro in AZ.

Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Bree

Bree E. Derrick
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