

HOUSE OF CORRECTION



Milwaukee County

Chantell Jewell • Superintendent

DATE: March 8, 2022

TO: Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee

FROM: Superintendent Chantell Jewell

SUBJECT: From the Superintendent, House of Correction (HOC), providing an informational report regarding the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health emergency, and updates on confirmed employee and inmate cases at the HOC. **(INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)**

The House of Correction staff are doing well with managing the spread of COVID-19 within the facility. There are currently 640 individuals in custody, and only 1 is COVID-19 positive. This count does include 371 individuals who are Felony Pretrial and another 8 who are awaiting transfer to the Wisconsin State Prison System. There are 52 individuals in the community on electronic monitoring and 53 residents in the Huber program. Facility-wide staff testing occurs biweekly. There are currently no staff impacted by COVID-19. The Alternate Care Facility (ACF) remains vacant and there haven't been any formal requests to activate it. In terms of staffing, the HOC has 81 correctional officer vacancies. As a matter of concern, the HOC has lost 27 correctional officers this year with overtime cited as the main reason for resignations. Only 8 new correctional officers have been hired so far this year.

Current COVID-19 Protocols have been reviewed with the Public Health Consultant and modifications have been made to include recreation in the gym for our non-vaccinated residents and quarantine times for offsite medical appointments have been revised.

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to both staff and residents at the HOC. The HOC continues to partner with a communication firm to address vaccine hesitancy and continue the education process with the hopes of increasing the overall vaccination rates in the facility. Wellpath also continues educate new residents as they come into the facility.

Below is a current breakdown of vaccinations given to date:

- 93% of the HOC staff and contractors have received the full vaccine series. There are 15 staff who have an approved exemption.
- 54% of the residents have received the full vaccine series.

Programming is gradually being reintroduced into the facility. The Workforce Specialist remains available to assist individuals with learning essential employment skills while

incarcerated and connecting residents with employment upon release. The Huber programming staff is also working with employers to hire residents who have community access but do not have employment. Franklin School District classes are currently in session. Marquette University is currently offering two courses onsite at the HOC. Chase Bank is also facilitating a financial literacy course onsite.