

HOUSE OF CORRECTION



Milwaukee County

Chantell Jewell • Superintendent

DATE: September 6, 2022

TO: Committee on Judiciary, Law Enforcement and General Services

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 resident cases at the HOC. **(INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)**

The House of Correction staff has faced some recent challenges within the facility relative to CoViD-19. 25 of our residents are COVID-19 positive as are 4 staff members. There are 725 individuals in custody. This count does include 413 individuals who are Pretrial and another 14 who are awaiting transfer to the Wisconsin State Prison System. There are currently 44 individuals in the community on electronic monitoring and 51 in our Huber dorms. Facility-wide testing of non-vaccinated staff was completed on 08/23 and 08/25 with no positive results. We continue to test non-vaccinated staff every two weeks. The Alternate Care Facility (ACF) remains vacant and there haven't been any formal requests to activate it.

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to both staff, support staff and individuals in custody at the HOC. Wellpath, in conjunction with security staff, continues to educate new residents as they come into the facility. Residents are made aware of the \$50.00 incentive awarded to their trust account if they are vaccinated at HOC. As of August 26, 2022, there have been 699 1st doses administered, 368 2nd and 224 boosters through this program for a total of 1291. HOC has 36% of its residents fully vaccinated. Overall, Wellpath has administered 2993 vaccine doses since April of 2021. This is inclusive of both staff and residents.

Residents who are released prior to their second shot are provided with their immunization card and advised to contact their local pharmacy for the second dose. Residents are also allowed to return to the HOC or arrange to take the second dose at the CJF. All vaccination information is entered into the health department system, so a pharmacist can verify doses taken.

HOC security recently met with our County medical health consultant and our Wellpath team to update our quarantine protocols to allow for a more safe and efficient operation and to align more with CDC guidelines.

93% of the HOC staff have received the full vaccine series.

We currently have 3 complete housing units that have fully vaccinated residents.

All our CoViD-19 positive residents are housed in a dormitory specialized for CoViD-19. We have dedicated Officers staffing the unit and the negative pressure fans are activated.

4 of our 16 general population housing units are currently on quarantine.

Both MATC and Franklin high school have resumed educational programs within HOC. Group therapy (led by Wellpath) has resumed as well.

HOC has recently upgraded its CoViD-19 mitigation program to include UV-C lighting in all our air handling units. We continue to utilize mandatory masking protocols (currently KN-95s are required) as well as thrice daily cleaning and (when required) UV-C “robots” and the use of anti-viral power spray devices. Both the UV-C robots and power sprayers are operated by specially trained HOC Officers.