



HOUSE OF CORRECTION

Milwaukee County

Chantell Jewell • Superintendent

DATE: January 19, 2021

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 799 individuals in custody, and none are positive. There are currently 70 individuals on electronic monitoring. Facility-wide staff testing was completed on 1/13 and 1/14 with only one positive test result amongst the staff. There are two additional staff out on quarantine. Staff did well with following safe practices during the holidays which was reflected by the test results. The Alternate Care Facility (ACF) was closed on 12/14/20. There have been no formal requests, to utilize the ACF, made by other jurisdictions. The next round of staff testing is scheduled for 1/27 and 1/28.

As we begin preparation for the vaccination there will be concerted efforts to educate staff as well as individuals in custody. The education will be facilitated via video, health services staff, HOC staff and written literature so that individuals can make informed decisions. In terms of the rollout, here is what we know:

- State DHS approved vaccinators to start administering vaccines to law enforcement in Phase 1b starting at the end of last week.
- The county is still focusing on Phase 1a workers but will begin transitioning to law enforcement starting as early as last Friday.
- Right now, only employees are approved to get vaccines in Phase 1b, as the State DHS has not finalized guidance. We are confident that residents of congregate living facilities will be included in 1b, which is critical to fighting the virus in these high-risk environments where physical distancing is not possible.

As we continue to manage the spread of the virus, programming is still very limited. Religious services have resumed. Services are offered in each dorm with groups of no more than 10 individuals.