



HOUSE OF CORRECTION

Milwaukee County

Chantell Jewell • Superintendent

DATE: November 30, 2021

TO: Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee

FROM: Assistant Superintendent David Rugaber

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 are doing well with managing the spread of COVID-19 within the facility. There are 532 individuals in custody, and none are COVID-19 positive. We have no positive staff or support staff currently. This count does include 232 individuals who are Pretrial and another 12 who are awaiting transfer to the Wisconsin State Prison System. There are currently 65 individuals in the community on electronic monitoring and 44 in our Huber dorms. Facility-wide testing of non-vaccinated staff was completed on 11/17 and 11/18 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. The HOC has also partnered 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 to educate new residents as they come into the facility as does our Booking room staff. Residents are made aware of the \$50.00 stipend awarded to their trust account if they are vaccinated at HOC. Currently, 184 residents have taken advantage of the incentive program since its inception in August.

Below is a current breakdown of current vaccination data:

- The HOC has both the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson (J&J) vaccines available which gives residents a choice of which vaccine they receive. There are currently 105 doses of the vaccine available at the HOC of which 55 are J&J single dose shots and 50 are Moderna. Wellpath can request additional doses weekly and has already requested additional supplies. Wellpath is currently offering the CoViD-19 booster shots in both J&J and Moderna versions.
- 88.5% of the HOC staff have received the full vaccine series. Including exemptions, HOC is 94.6% compliant with the mandate with 10 staff members pending verification and 6 who have not submitted any documentation or have been denied

exemption status. 2 of those staff members are on military leave which leaves 4 (or 1.4%) in non-compliance.

- There are 74% of residents who have received the full vaccine series. By comparison, Milwaukee County as a whole currently sits at a 66.9% vaccination rate.
- 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.

Programming opportunities are still limited however we are beginning to gradually reintroduce programming into the facility. The Employment Navigator from Employ Milwaukee has continuously worked with individuals both pre and post release throughout the pandemic. We are now able to add some Fatherhood, Cognitive and other vocational programming in a limited capacity. Our Law Library has migrated from a mobile unit back to our original library setting. Ed Hennings has been invited in to address our youthful residents (17 years olds) regarding cognitive thinking and changing behavior strategies.

We currently have 3 complete housing units that have fully vaccinated residents. Two are working units assigned to the kitchen and one is a general housing unit. This general housing unit was formed at the recommendation of one of our vaccinated residents. They have a similar classification status and are allocated additional benefits such as extra recreation and the ability to participate in team sports. They also may remove their face masks while in outdoor recreation.

We recently hosted a 3 x 3 basketball tournament for vaccinated staff members that included staff from both HOC and the CEX Office. The event was refereed by Supervisor Coggs-Jones.

The Huber re-opening plan was approved by the County Executive's office and we opened the Huber dorms (one male and one female) on August 1st. Both residents and Huber staff are required to be fully vaccinated before occupying the Huber dormitories.