



HOUSE OF CORRECTION

Milwaukee County

Chantell Jewell • Superintendent

DATE: May 5, 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 820 individuals in custody, and none are positive. This count does include 371 individuals who are Felony Pretrial and another 196 who are awaiting transfer to the Wisconsin State Prison System. There are currently 76 individuals in the community on electronic monitoring. Facility-wide staff testing was completed on 4/21 and 4/22 with no positive results. However, there are currently two staff that are COVID-19 positive and another staff member who is isolation due to contact. The Alternate Care Facility (ACF), remains vacant and there haven't been any formal requests to activate it. There are no staffing concerns currently. The next round of staff testing is scheduled for 5/5 and 5/6.

As of 3/1, the COVID-19 vaccine was made available to both staff and individuals in custody at the HOC. In addition to an education video, Wellpath has educated every dorm and offered to administer the vaccine on the spot if they wanted it. The residents that choose not to take the vaccine during this time are easily able to request it later by submitting a sick call slip. Wellpath also educates new residents as they come into the facility.

Below is a current breakdown of vaccinations given to date:

- 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 535 doses of the vaccine available at the HOC of which 335 are J&J single dose shots. Wellpath can request additional doses weekly
- 44% of the HOC staff have received the full vaccine series.
- There are 27% of residents who have received the full vaccine series

- Residents who are released prior to their second shot will be provided with their immunization card, information to contact the health department, scheduled for the second dose at the Kosciuszko Community Center or given the opportunity to return to the HOC for the second dose of the vaccine. Individuals with upcoming release dates will be prioritized to receive the J&J vaccine.

To address vaccine hesitancy and increase the vaccination rates both amongst staff and residents, Milwaukee County has hired a communications firm. They will help to identify credible messengers to educate residents and staff about the benefits of taking the vaccine. On 4/29, Milwaukee County launched a new data dashboard that shows HOC vaccination data. We are working diligently to increase vaccination rates so that our residents can receive the programming and support need to prevent future engagement with the criminal justice system.

Programming opportunities remain very limited. The visiting center has been reopened making it easier for residents to stay connected to their loved ones. We are also exploring strategies that would allow us to safely reopen the Huber dorms.