



HOUSE OF CORRECTION

Milwaukee County

Chantell Jewell • Superintendent

DATE: July 14, 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 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 606 individuals in custody, and none are COVID-19 positive. This count does include 232 individuals who are Felony Pretrial and another 140 who are awaiting transfer to the Wisconsin State Prison System. There are currently 69 individuals in the community on electronic monitoring. Facility-wide staff testing was completed on 6/30 and 07/01 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.

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 155 doses of the vaccine available at the HOC of which 135 are J&J single dose shots and 20 are Moderna. Wellpath can request additional doses weekly.
- 57% of the HOC staff have received the full vaccine series which is up from 51% on the previous monthly report.
- There are 56% of residents who have received the full vaccine series which is a 9% increase over the June report.
- 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 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 teams 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 has been approved by the County Executive's office and we are in the final planning stages. Huber will tentatively reopen on 8/1/21. Both residents and Huber staff will be required to be fully vaccinated before occupying the Huber dormitories.