



HOUSE OF CORRECTION

Milwaukee County

Chantell Jewell • Superintendent

DATE: October 20, 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 544 individuals in custody, and none are COVID-19 positive. This count does include 222 individuals who are Felony Pretrial and another 19 who are awaiting transfer to the Wisconsin State Prison System. There are 63 individuals in the community on electronic monitoring and 38 residents in the Huber program. Facility-wide staff testing was completed on 10/20 and 10/21. There are currently 4 staff members who are in isolation due to contact. The Alternate Care Facility (ACF), remains vacant and there haven't been any formal requests to activate it. In terms of staffing, the HOC has 59 correctional officer vacancies. As a matter of concern, the HOC has lost 9 correctional officers within the last 10 days with leaving for a higher paying job cited as the reason.

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to both staff and residents at the HOC. The HOC continues to partner 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 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.
- 81% of the HOC staff and contractors have received the full vaccine series. There are 15 staff who have an approved exemption.
- There are 44% of residents who have received the full vaccine series.
- 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 remain limited however we are gradually reintroducing programming into the facility. The Workforce Specialist remains available to assist individuals with learning essential employment skills while incarcerated and connecting residents with employment upon release. The Huber programming staff is also working with employers to hire residents who have community access but do not have employment. School resumed in September and there have been no issues. Literacy Links is active and it allows incarcerated parents to stay connected to their children through reading. Fatherhood programming is scheduled to resume next week. The HOC has also partnered with the Municipal Courts to provide driver's license recovery during incarceration, which will begin in November.