



COVID-19 Behind the Walls

Prisoner Reports Dated May 4-6, 2020

5/6/20 SG FCC:

1. SG reports that almost no staff wear masks. When asked why, one guard said:
 - a. It's optional.
 - b. S/he doesn't believe it's a real problem, that s/he doesn't practice social distancing even out on the street, and s/he believes it's "fake news."
 - c. S/he wishes all of the prisoners would get it, because then they'd be immune.
2. SG says one prisoner died (elderly, reportedly of natural causes), but who's to know if his medical problem was exacerbated by COVID-19? He says only 2 people at FCC have been tested.
3. Twenty prisoners have been moved to 25-house, which is MOSOP, open dorms. Twenty prisoners from 25-house have been moved to other housing units, including 7-House, where he resides. 25-house is where they are having phase 2 of the MOSOP classes. SG already has respiratory issues and a compromised immune system, and he fears that he will be moved there as well.
4. Although they're reducing the number of prisoners in chow hall at the same time, they still require 4 people to sit at a 4-person table.

5/4/2020 KB ERDCC:

Despite the MDOC's written notice that there would be no transfers between prisons to avoid spreading COVID-19, they have transferred several infected prisoners here to ERDCC. They are currently being held in Housing Unit 10. So it seems that ERDCC has been designated to be the quarantine camp. This is likely to lead to community spread within the prison as staff members assigned to Housing Unit 10 mingle with other staff members, and as medical personnel carry the virus from Housing Unit 10 into the clinic which is used by all ERDCC prisoners.

5/6/20 KB ERDCC:

As you know, ERDCC is a diagnostic center which receives all newly committed prisoners to MDOC. It's important to note that the COVID-19 Housing Unit here at ERDCC (Housing Unit 10) is on the diagnostic side of the prison, from which prisoners are transferred to every other prison throughout the state. This makes it even more illogical to have those infected people confined there. If staff spread the virus to the diagnostic side of the prison, MDOC may see a statewide infection.

5/6/20 AB (KB's wife):

Reports that all those who tested positive at SECC have been moved to ERDCC, to 10 house. The entire prison has been on 23-hour lockdown since the last week in March.

5/4/20 MC SECC:

Message sent 5/04/2020 by acting warden at 1:48 pm

Please be advised we received notification of our 5th confirmed Staff positive COVID-

19. The staff member is isolating at home. Any other staff members who had close contact with the positive staff member have been quarantined and are not allowed to work. All protocols have been followed to limit exposure. Everyone who has been in close contact with the COVID-19 positive staff member has been notified. If you have not received notification that you are suspected of having had close contact, that means you are not considered to be at risk.

It is important that we be respectful during this time and be aware that misinformation can cause unnecessary alarm. We remain in viral containment and must keep up the cleaning and social distancing efforts.

Acting Warden Richard Adams

This message sent 5/4/2020 by acting warden @ 3:47 pm

I have been notified we had an offender in HU 5A test positive for COVID-19 this morning. **This brings our total to 30 offenders.** All 68 offenders from HU 4B were single-cell isolated on April 23rd even if their original tests were negative. As you can imagine, this is very frustrating for the guys in isolation. They are also concerned for their own health. Medical is working 24/7 in those wings exclusively and advising us how to proceed. We hope that a new round of testing for those guys will be negative again and they can get out of isolation. The men who are positive have to have two negative tests before they are clear. Keep a good thought for them as they deal with this pandemic. Also keep a good thought for the staff and offender workers who are caring for them 24/7. Keep cleaning and keep social distancing. Be smart and be good to each other. If ever there was a time to put issues aside and come together to limit the exposure its now.

Acting Warden Richard Adams