



**COVID-19 Behind the Walls**  
Prisoner Report Dated June 1-17, 2020

**6/17/2020 JP WERDCC**

Brandie, my roommate, tested positive as of 6-16-20; they came and got her and put us under quarantine for 14 days as of today.

Keep in mind we were tested on Monday 6-15-20 and the results are already back.

We were told staff and offenders have tested positive. We were told there are so many people that they can't move everyone to the quarantine house, so unless you are in close proximity to a person who tested positive you will not go the quarantine house; you will however be quarantined on your wing.

We were told 8 staff member so far and 9 offenders have come back positive and they said they expect a lot more.

Please pray and get the word out that WERDCC is now infected with COVID-19, and my dear friend Ellen Boehm is in TCU as I type this email. If anyone knows Brenda Grant, please pass that info to her; she is a close friend.

This is an email I sent my sister. Please pass it on and check on your loved ones if you have anyone that may be in the prison.

Be Blessed.

**6/16/2020 MC SECC**

Day thirteen of a fourteen day quarantine. No cell cleaning, disinfectants, or hand sanitizer. And most important no new testing. We were to be tested last Friday, results Monday/Tuesday release on Wednesday, day fourteen. However, that of course did not happened and rescheduled for Monday.....well okay Monday in DOC/CORIZON language is.....whenever we get to it. Tuesday @ 1:15 pm we are told tomorrow .....or to interpret DOC/CORIZON.....whenever we get to it. Once again it is proved that there is absolutely no effective leadership, or communication between administration, support services, custody staff, or medical. No game plan in place nor followed and scrambling for clues on leadership.

**6/12/20 MC SECC**

**\*\*\*\*\*message sent June 12, 2020\*\*\*\*\***

I have been notified that an additional staff has tested positive for COVID 19. This staff member is currently isolating at home. No staff or offenders were identified as

having close contact with this individual in the previous 14 days. Thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time.

Bill Stange, Warden

\*\*\*\*\*End\*\*\*\*\*

I like the part where an employee comes to work and does not have close contact for 14 days with anyone. What is staff's job at a prison where you don't have close contact for 2 weeks? Did they come and go by themselves? Do their job completely alone? Eat alone? We know we have been fed bullshit all along this pandemic. Being in isolation for 14 days isn't even true. We still haven't been told anything official. No cell cleaning, no hand sanitizers, we are locked down 24 hours a day.

Every third day you get 20 minutes to shower, order canteen, use phone. No sick call, no caseworker, no recreation. A Mr. Hartzman of Constituent Services supposedly told Warden Stange that he must give us 45 minute rotation out of our cell every day. That comes from offender Chris Winter who claims his wife called Constituent Services one week ago. We have not been retested. C/O Womack said we are to be tested today results back Mon. or Tues. Molly, director of medical said if tested Monday, results Wed. or Thurs. But we don't know about false positives, false negatives, retesting and do we stay on isolation or is the 14 day period observed and we are allowed out? Just don't know, and not knowing adds stress and creates havoc and the good old us-against-them attitude.

**6/5/2020 MC SECC**

**\*\*\*\*\*message sent June 3rd 2020 received June 4th 2020\*\*\*\*\***

Sentinel testing has concluded at SECC, and all test results have been received. As a result of this testing, we have identified 3 new cases of COVID-19 among staff, 4 new cases among offenders, and 5 relapses previously infected offenders who had tested negative but now are positive again. Offenders who tested positive have been placed on isolation status, and their cellmates have been placed on quarantine status. The 3 staff members who have tested positive have been placed on leave at this time. Staff who have had close contact with a positive individual have been notified and will be on leave for 14 days as a precaution. Offenders who have had close contact with an individual who has tested positive have been placed on quarantine status as a precaution.

With regard to the 9 positive offender cases, 6 of the 9 cases were from housing unit #4 - B wing. Five of these offenders re-tested positive for the virus after previous positive and then negative test results. The remaining 3 positive cases were from housing unit #2.

I would like to thank the offender population for their continued cooperation and patience during these difficult times. Our number one priority is the safety of the team

and everyone who resides here. Our success in achieving this goal remains dependent upon your patience and cooperation.

Bill Stange, Warden - SECC

\*\*\*\*\*end of message\*\*\*\*\*

We have been locked down in our cells since Tuesday June 2nd, 2020. We have not been out of our cell for any reason what-so-ever. No showers, no phones, nothing. Part of the preaching done here is the importance of remaining clean. Not only your body, but also your clothes and your cell. We cannot clean, sweep, mop, wipe down, use disinfectant, or even get to the hand sanitizer, let alone take a shower. Again, different correctional officers are in and out of our wing, different med pass people etc. This exposes a greater number of people which is not necessary. They even bring in an offender to collect trash. Why not keep it all in house or in wing? Why expose outsiders and let them go to other housing units or places on the prison. As of today no official has come in and done any type of a Question and Answer period. So we yell out to the C/O'S serving meals and ask our questions and we are told they don't know or what they think but no solid answers.

Does this make sense to you? We were tested last week, Wednesday, I believe. Then four days later, Offender Michael Tetter was retested. Then Tuesday night they came and packed him and his cellmate off to 5 house, locking us all down as quarantine. Does it make sense to do another test now????..... in case of a false negative from last Tuesday 9 days ago? Does it make sense to test everyone after 14 days from the last test to see if anyone has come up positive?...or does it make sense to lock everyone down for 14 days or 22 days from first test, then test again everyone? If you get a false positive when do you know it was a false positive..... everyone locked down an additional 4 days to find out? And a false negative. That means you let everyone out after 14 or 21 days and they had tested negative but it was false so they are really positive so they are running around spreading it.

So I think every 4 or 5 days you test everyone in quarantine. After 3 or 4 test you could make a better decision on who is or isn't infected. I hear the test are 50% accurate. The part in the Wardens e-mail about "5 relapse" is why I wonder if they should do more testing all along the quarantine way. Not just at the end. At the end of 14 days there is a false negative and you release them they go out and infect others? Well perhaps you can draw up some questions for DOC about the operations of covid quarantine and see what's up because we are not getting any answers here! How many offenders are sick elsewhere?

**6/4/2020 MC SECC**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Central Office for the complete failure to communicate, supervise and instill proper sanitary protocols to effectively stop the spreading of COVID-19 in the prison system.

First and foremost attention must be directed at Corizon, whom themselves couldn't come up with a viable plan to keep COVID out of the prison, let alone keep their employees safe from contracting the virus.

Second, I'd like to draw attention to the under staffing and uneducated, dysfunctional staff members who have absolutely no common sense. They themselves prove beyond any doubt that common sense is not common.

Let's look back a moment and see what went wrong like all arm chair quarterbacks do. And clean the lens of hindsight.

We all knew since January that COVID was in the United States and starting to spread. For the life of me I cannot figure out why DOC and MVE dragged its feet in making masks. We have several facilities that are making clothing throughout Missouri and masks could have been produced within a day of receiving the directive, but no directive was given until April. MVE missed its chance to make masks and insure first responders had masks in society. And masks should have been staged at each prison even if COVID wasn't present at the prison, masks should of been handed out for those who choose to wear a mask, could wear a mask. And an official order given that all offenders leaving there cell must have a mask in properly, once the virus is at the prison. None of it was done.

Furthermore, DOC was once again late to the common sense party, by never handing out food service plastic cheap gloves to all offenders. These gloves would have at worst served a physical reminder not to touch your face. At best stopped offenders from touching door handles, knobs, or doors themselves, or handrails. As well as drinking fountains (which should have been shut off in January).

DOC completely missed the boat by not assigning certain officers to certain housing units and certain wings. Those officers should not have been allowed to roam the prison or be reassigned to other areas for work. One officer, one wing. Of course that officer can't work seven days a week, but a viable plan should of been made and closing down church services, Restorative Justice, Institutional Activities coordinators, Hiset (GED), visiting room staff, caseworkers, facility unit managers, (areas of group gatherings) which has been done, but staff was not used to fill in any gaps. Instead DOC acted and continue to act as it always has in a state of chaos. Playing favorites on who gets assigned where. But again due to the fact that the State of Missouri across the board does not pay its employee's a competitive wage compared to other states or the private sector, a manpower issue will always exist. Then add in the mandatory overtime, sexual harassment, a terrible benefit package, buying your own uniforms, etc. no wonder there are the problems. Of course having a Central Office that does not get out on a regular basis and walk the prisons does not bode well for the administration. The Director did make a tour of prisons as a show of new leadership when she took over, but has since found a home in her ivory tower. Showing her leadership style is by dictatorship, not leading by example. I strongly suggest that the Director get involved in the Global Leadership Seminar that selected offenders take once a year, featuring guest speakers from fortune 500 companies and religious

leaders.

Due to the incompetence of Corizon and DOC another 140 offenders are put on quarantine for 14 days, and a few others have contracted COVID-19 on June 2, 2020, and approximately 8 staff members sent home. Wiping out all of Housing Unit 2 and the complete correctional staff of guards that came and went freely between wings, control center, and caseworker's office.

Unfortunately, I am one of those now quarantined—Chronic Care patient, previous and current medical conditions, and I have no choice but to rely on Corizon and DOC to protect me. I have more faith in my (purchased) bar of antibacterial dial soap.

### **6/2/2020 RP WMCC**

1. None of the staff here are wearing masks. The inmates stopped wearing their masks because the staff are not wearing their masks.
2. They started back packing us in the kitchen. They are cramming the whole house in one side of the kitchen and cramming another house on the other side of the kitchen. Sometimes it is so packed in the kitchen that it is hard to find a place to sit.
3. They stopped wiping the tables off before we come into the kitchen because they are rushing to feed us so the inmates that were spraying the tables with bleach and wiping them down do not have the time to wipe them down because they are calling one house after another so they are not giving them time to wipe down the tables and the tables are dirty and have all kinds of food on them.
4. Only a few nurses are wearing masks, and the officers working in medical are not wearing masks, and some of the same officers working in medical work double shifts and come work in the houses after working in medical and not wearing mask.
5. All the VTS workers including myself are crammed into the kitchen and we are all from different houses, so if someone has the virus and is unknowingly spreading it, then all of us will take it back to our houses and spread it.
6. Also inmates and staff working in the kitchen are not wearing face masks and no beard guards or hairnets while serving the food and they constantly talk and yell over our food.
7. Starting next week everything is supposed to go back to normal, and none us have been tested.
8. The ice scoop in the wing for us to get ice out of the ice machine hasn't been sterilized since I've been here at WMCC, and staff also use the same ice scoop we use to get ice.
9. Also the machine we use in the kitchen to get ice and drinking water, I've witnessed

staff and inmates washing their hands and touching the same handle we have to use to put our cups on to get drinking water.

10. The wings and showers are filthy and staff are not checking the wings and showers to see if they are clean and the chemicals are still being watered down.

11. Staff are not giving us extra soap to wash our hands.

12. Phones are not being sterilized.

## **6/2/2020 MC SECC**

After a long hard day of compiling data and conducting interviews, I can now state with verified certainty the following.

On or about May 25, 2020 Corizon healthcare workers conducted COVID-19 testing at SECC. It was discovered when the results came back that 11 offenders housed in 2-A and 2-B (administrative and disciplinary segregation units) have tested positive for COVID-19. These offenders were moved to 5 House. They are currently in single-man cells. I do not know the conditions of confinement (i.e., do they have daily showers, weekly full canteen privileges, books, magazines, phone usage, I-Pad for music and e-mail?), nor do I know the numbers of infected camp-wide. DOC is not sending out e-mails like they were three weeks ago. Tight lips!

The cells that they occupied were stripped down to nothing. Even the mattress was disposed of. Once stripped, the cell was sprayed with a bleach solution and let sit for a while. Then fully protected offenders in PPE's sprayed the cell again and wiped the cell down.

I also asked about the comings and goings of correctional officers, the usage of PPE's and the taking off of PPE's in common areas such as caseworker's office, where possible contagious exposure could occur. I was told to go back to my cell. The exact same CO's that came and went from A wing and B wing, came and went in the control center, caseworker's office, C wing and D wing.

At dinner time yesterday and today the Housing Unit Sgt. did not wear gloves or face masks, even though there are signs posted everywhere. And if the supervisor isn't complying with the rules, how effective are they at supervising? Leading by example?

The prison firmly believes in providing PPE's to staff. But when it comes to the prisoner plumber and all the things he must handle, he is only given a cloth face mask. No face shield, outer gown, gloves etc. This same plumber is then let back into his housing unit, to go directly back to his cell without the opportunity to shower and given a new clean set of clothing. His dirty clothes are not treated as biohazardous clothing. All for \$\$20.00 per month.

Well that's the newest! I hear things are getting crazy out there and the tension is

showing in here.

They need to come up with a new plan of taking our minds off of riots, demonstrations, and COVID.

### **6/1/20 MC SECC**

Please share contents with whomever!

Prison wide Covid-19 at SECC is complete and results are in. However, SECC will not release the numbers to offenders. The administration has gone silent. This is when fear, anger, and rumors run wild. Mix that with the riots, protests and demonstrations occurring nationwide, we sit and stress all day, which adds to the us-against-them hatred with staff.

What we do know is offender or offenders in 2A were moved to 2B and quarantined. Offenders already in 2B were also quarantined.

Now stupid shows it head. Now there are two houses that are housing quarantine offenders. I think it might be possible that 5 house single man quarantined cells are full? Or is DOC so concerned that an offender spend his disciplinary segregation days in dis. seg. (2A and 2B) that they do not move and house all quarantined offenders together? As it stands, we watch daily as guards and healthcare workers put on approved masks, gloves, face shield and over-clothing gowns and go into these wings. They dispense medications, food, and paperwork. They move the adseg offender to and from showers, recreation, and hearings. The staff then leave and go to an open common area, caseworker's office, and remove face shields, gloves, and gowns. However, they continue to wear the face mask. The staff move to other wings or return to the control center for wrestling matches, card games, and horseplay.

I do not know the protocol. However, the same staff member assigned to quarantine wing should not be allowed in common areas such as offices, control center or other wings. They too should be isolated. And deserve hazard pay and extra time off. If an infected offender is moved, his old cell and living area should be properly disinfected. They are using offender plumbers and they are not properly clothed and returned to their housing unit.

Until protocols are defined, set up, strictly enforced, and relentlessly supervised, proper healthcare and the greatest standard of care will not be reached. COVID will silently sit and wait for the smallest wisp of air to invade, time and time again.

### **6/1/20 DW SECC**

Hello Ms. Harden, How are you doing? I pray all is well with you and yours. Listen I thought to myself that you could use these emails that are sent to us by the Superintendent and others.

All these emails you now have concern the outbreak of COVID-19 here at SECC.

Most of them say that the staff that was affected had no contact with the offender population. This is not true at all. If that were so, then why are so many men affected?

Things with me are good, and I have been told by the head prosecutor that after the virus passes she will get the records I need to fight my case .....which I was previously told was closed to me:-) .

Anyway take care of yourself for me.

Yours in solidarity, David

**From Acting Warden:**

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**

**From New Warden:**

I have been informed that SECC has an additional staff member who has been confirmed positive for COVID-19. This individual was identified through the sentinel testing that is taking place this week at SECC. Offenders who have had close contact with this individual in the past 14 days, as well as their cell-mates have been placed on quarantine status for precautionary reasons. Staff who have had close contact with this individual in the past 14 days have been notified and will be on leave for 14 days for precautionary reasons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the offender population for their cooperation during our sentinel testing this week. I am also thankful for the support and assistance from our administration in Jefferson City. The sentinel testing is a huge step toward returning SECC to more normal operations. I am proud to be your warden, and I am very happy with the offender population's behavior during this difficult time.

Bill Stange,

Warden