



COVID-19 Behind the Walls

Prisoner Report Dated May 21-29, 2020

5/29/2020 MC SECC

Thank you for responding to my last e-mail. We were told that we were going to be tested. If you refused, you would be placed in Administration Segregation, isolation until you comply. Not even fourteen days but you had to be tested. The local TV news stated we would be taken to the visitation room. However, two Corizon employees came to our wing and other Corizon employees went elsewhere. I will say that the testing seemed to be sterile, and a decent method. I was very surprised!!! Seems that someone else came up with the process and plan....like the military! This went way too well for a DOC / Corizon operation. There is so much conflicting info out there on COVID. I thought that if you had it:

- 1) you can't get it again for approximately one year
- 2) if you had it you can donate plasma and it's given to others to fight off COVID.

Now the medical people here saying no to both. I was reading the law computer and it says that Offenders can take part in blood donations. I think it would be cool if some org. did a blood drive. Corizon takes blood samples from me every six months because I am a chronic care patient. So if Corizon knows you have clean blood they should allow donations to be made.

Statewide Offenders could quickly donate blood to curtail any shortage and or national emergency disaster. Instead of developing a plan and being prepared for the unfortunate event, they will wait till it's too late! Just think: approximately 26,000 offenders, let's guess 50% clean of any defect. 50% of those clean donate. 6,500 pints of blood in a day! Week! Even a month! 6,500 pints is a lot! Oh well I certainly can't solve all the problems. LOL!

Oh, we do not know if we will be told if we pass, fail, or any results of test. Guess we have to wait and see if they quarantine us or not. If not, will you be told, you had it or never contracted? Lack of information causes stress, anxiety, and confusion.

I saw some suspicious activities going on at 4 house last night. Trailer full of packing boxes, men in sterile suits, Guards 4-6 standing outside while sterile-suited people come and go. Maybe connected with employee (guard) being infected. Will find out more today.

*****message sent 5/28/20 @ 10:12 pm******

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

I think it is absolutely irresponsible of DOC to move guards around. We know for fact that 4 house and 5 house have COVID. Last night one of the guards from 4 house was working in 2 house, none of the guards are wearing masks and they walk by the hand sanitizers like they are not there! Guards should be assigned to one area and one area only; this could help in stopping the spread and make it a lot easier to track the contact if someone was positive. Heck I don't even see 10% of the offenders wearing masks! Thanks for all you do for us.
Best regards!

5/28/2020 JC MECC

TITLE: ARE YOU SERIOUS?

The DOC has put into effect several COVID-19 responses that are absolutely illogical. First they make us wear our masks to medical, and medical and custody staff don't HAVE to wear theirs, seriously.

They won't let us do in-wing cell moves because that "spreads the virus", but they would rather force us into living with someone we don't get along with, seriously.

They make us sit two to a table at meals with our wing, but we stand elbow to elbow in the community bathroom, seriously. They tell us the virus was brought into SECC because of these practices, seriously.

News flash, every institution is already a quarantine zone, the virus has to be brought in from the outside.

We offer suggestions and their response is ALWAYS "We are looking into it." They try to use illogical responses and pass them off as logical and will argue until you either back down or see things their way, seriously.

Just because we are incarcerated doesn't mean we are stupid; it's time to quit being reactive and start being proactive, SERIOUSLY.

5/28/2020 MC SECC

I can now claim with absolute certainty that the Missouri National Guard is at SECC. I

have personally witnessed their presence.

About 2 weeks ago I was informed by an offender that the Missouri National Guard was in the facility's parking lot setting up a command center. But I only heard it from one offender and I watched the coming and goings within the fences and never seen uniformed or strangers looming inside. Yesterday I overheard an offender talking on the phone about the army in our parking lot.

I screwed my face seven ways to Sunday inside the frame of the window to get a very limited view of the parking lot. After conducting scrupulous, face contorting, stakeout of the SECC parking lot, I can now say with certainty that an outhouse porta-potty type is living in the parking lot. There also seems to be a strange military type vehicle parked next to porta-potty. Will further observe movements to see if the military is invading SECC and or possible protecting all criminals from freedom. Or could it be Gov. Parson has ordered everyone released and brought in the military to carry out his orders! :~) That was a bad attempt at humor. Why would Nat Guard be here?:-)

I received notice that Mo. Cure and Black Struggle put \$10.00 on J-Pay! Thanks very much. I'll use it in my efforts to get the Federal Court Eastern Division Eastern District in St. Louis to install the electronic file system and the pacer case locator system in our institution. JCCC has been electronically filing for about 6 years now with the Western District in Kansas City. Why not everywhere for everyone male, female, poor, rich etc.

5/27/2020 JP WERDCC

Thank you and the Missouri CURE for all that you do and the manner in which you do it. You lend a voice and in many cases a face for those who otherwise would not be heard or seen. The faces of inmates/offenders look like you and me. The bars don't discriminate, the cells don't discriminate, and justice should not discriminate.

Entities such as the Missouri CURE among others are pivotal towards getting the message out and shining a light on the prosecutorial misconduct of our Criminal Justice system and the derelict behavior of those who have been put in place to ensure a fair and equal representation of facts and evidence or the lack of evidence. As well as each defended be given proper legal representation as well as due process according to law.

We realize that the scales of justice are unbalanced but when the scales tip grossly in one direction then it becomes a problem. So on behalf of all the men and women as well as the children/youth who are in the Department Of Corrections, especially those like myself who are falsely accused and wrongfully incarcerated, we say thank you.

Thank you for reminding then world that we are here and that we matter and that many of us should not even be in prison. Thank you for keeping the light on. More importantly, this effects everyone, and turning a blind eye to our criminal justice system is no longer okay and can no longer be tolerated.

I along with B.O. also want to thank you for the card and the ten dollar credit to the JPay media account. It is truly appreciated and welcomed.

From our hearts to yours be safe, be healthy, and be blessed.

5/26/2020 LLB SECC

Hedy, how are you doing? Hopefully all is well and things are going well. We should be getting off this quarantine this week. We had to take two tests, and then we go back. I was negative the first one, and we should be getting another one today.

I'll be sending you another article too. How are the other guys? Jason Lewis is no longer warden down here, he is Deputy Director now. That could turn out to be good; we'll see. I see them in February, and things are moving fast. I'll call when I can.

5/23/2020 MC SCCC

***** message sent by Jeff Norman May 22, 2020 @ 10:22 pm******

Increasing COVID-19 testing capacity is one of the four major components of Missouri's Show Me Strong Recovery Plan and a key to reopening the state. Missouri's testing strategy includes sentinel testing, a process of testing most or all members of a large group of people living or working together in close contact, even if there are no known cases of COVID-19 in that location.

Beginning Tuesday, May 26, all Missouri Department of Corrections adult institutions will participate in sentinel testing.

We plan to test all offenders and staff at Southeast Correctional Center and South Central Correctional Center beginning Tuesday, May 26.

The following week, beginning Sunday, May 31, we will test all staff and offenders at Algoa Correctional Center and Chillicothe Correctional Center.

Department leaders currently are developing a plan for effective and efficient testing at other facilities throughout the state in the coming weeks.

Before, during and after this process takes place, we will continue to adhere to the viral containment plans implemented at all facilities. If some members of the corrections community test positive for COVID-19, we will continue our strategy of isolating offenders and sending staff home.

Please understand that this testing is a required first step to get our institutions back to normal operations. On behalf of all staff, I want to tell you how much we appreciate your patience through all of this. I believe you know that we are all doing our best to ensure staff and offender safety. I want nothing more than to go back to normal, allowing you to see your loved ones and being able spend time with others at your

facility at recreation, church services and programs. Let's hope together that this testing is a doorway to allowing this to happen. Again, I want to thank you for your patience and diligence to keep this virus out of our prisons.

Jeff Norman, Director of Adult Institutions

Well, there you have it. They begin testing at SECC and we know SECC does and or did have covid-19. I'm puzzled why SCCC but I won't read into it by speculation. Please feel free to forward to media outlets any or all e mails.

5/21/2020 MC SECC

Great to hear from the outside!

Tuesday and Thursday are normally transfer days. Since the pandemic hit an e-mail was sent that all transfers have been canceled. Every Tuesday and Thursday since I keep an eye out on the yard and see if anyone is coming in. And Monday and Wednesday around 1 pm if you're transferring out you're told to pack up. Nobody has come or went in months. We did have a very few medical out counts and court dates but in the past two months those have stopped. As we have previously discussed, SECC 5 house was completely empty. That's 36, two man cells empty, per wing and four wings per house! Or by DOC standards bed space for 288 offenders. DOC and prisoners alike were very lucky we had plenty of empty bunks to do single man cell isolation. We had so many empty cells, that some corrections officers who tested positive actually stayed until they got two test negative. The staff was so short other correctional officers spent the night. Some came from other camps to help and stayed here. We currently have a med tech here helping out from one of the women's prisons. I think she told me Vandalia. I have spoken to the stay over officers.

Offenders here are so very anti-social *disesablishmentarianism* and bored that they feel the need to be important and in the know that they elaborate and exaggerate what they walked by and heard 10 seconds of a two minute conversation. I don't point fingers or assign blame, I just listen, file it away, research, ask around to credible support services workers, administration, staff etc. If three or more say the same, then I'm a 90% believer. Now if the info comes from the outside I am a quicker and higher percent believer.

Well thanks for the birthday wishes. On the 14th I woke up and everything hurt from toes to nose! By noon the only thing left hurting was ego, pride and my hairline. Well I guess my hairline wasn't hurting; it was just missing. M.I.A.!

I am now working on possible litigation about the new P and P system. Before, two years before your possible release date you had a hearing, P and P could tell you exactly what you needed to do (i.e. program, hiset, stay out of trouble, better home plan) to have a great chance of being released in two years. Now you have hearing two months before your earliest release date. At that time they say well you need treatment or MOSOP or whatever. So you're not getting out in two months because DOC has to now transfer you to Farmington or the treatment place by Springfield or wherever.

State statute says you SHALL complete MOSOP before being eligible for parole. Well I know a lot of Offenders who have to take MOSOP and been denied parole several times because they haven't completed MOSOP, only because DOC hasn't sent them there yet. Kind of a catch 22. I sent a sunshine request to the General Assembly asking for the names and contact info on the Corrections Committee in Jeff City. Never got a response. Would you happen to know who I can write and find out this info?

One of our nurse practitioners was walked out last year because of a relationship with an offender. She is very bitter and ready to help about DOC and Corizon's medical issues and problems.

Thank you for teaching this old dog a new word. I had to get out the dictionary and check "missives". I'll keep the info coming and even my ramblings of covid-19, public defender office, and the ills of prison life.

5/21/2020 MC SECC:

Does this ever end?

*****Message sent May 20, 2020, 10:22pm by new Warden Bill Stange*****

I was informed this morning that we have had an additional staff member test positive for COVID-19.

This staff member did not have close contact with any offenders in the last 14 days.

This Staff member is at home on quarantine. Other staff who have had close contact with positive individuals have been quarantined at home for precautionary reasons. They will not be at work until they clear our protocol for return.

Bill Stange, Warden

I read in the Prison Legal News the following:

Missouri

"On April 15, 2020, the Missouri Department of Corrections announced that 11 staff members and one prisoner have tested positive for coronavirus. One inmate had died. In total, 49 prisoners have been tested.

On March 30, 2020, Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice George Draper sent a letter to trial level judges clarifying the state's criminal provisions and pointing out courts' authority to release both prisoners and jail detainees early."