

NICI QUESTIONS

How many inmates do you have in Cottonwood?

Today's count is 260 men incarcerated at NICI.

How many inmates in Cottonwood have tested positive for coronavirus?

We have had a total of 104 incarcerated men test positive at Cottonwood.

Over what time frame?

The first four men who tested positive all presented at sick call with symptoms related to COVID on Sept. 2, 2020. They were immediately isolated in a room that is separate from the dormitory housing units and tested.

Once we determined they were positive, the men were sent to ICIO where there is 24-hour medical coverage. NICI has medical staff onsite for 16 hours a day.

On September 16, we tested all prisoners and staff at NICI. All prisoners who tested positive are housed in one living facility. Any prisoners who tested negative who were living on that unit have been isolated off the tier and will be monitored for the possibility of developing symptoms. These prisoners will be retested as medically indicated.

What age groups of inmates were involved?

As there are 104 individuals that have tested positive, the age groups are not readily available.

How serious were the cases?

Of the 104 prisoners who tested positive, 88 are asymptomatic.

The 16 who showed symptoms and were sent to ICIO as a precaution because medical staff are available there around the clock.

How many of the inmates had to be hospitalized and what were their ages?

No inmates at NICI have had to be hospitalized.

How many employees in Cottonwood have tested positive for coronavirus?

We have had a total of five NICI staff test positive for COVID. Three of them were asymptomatic.

How does that compare with the number of staff members you have in Cottonwood?

NICI has 78 staffmembers

Over what time frame?

The first staff member twho tested positive was tested on September 8, 2020. The three asymptomatic staff were all tested on September 16, 2020 when IDOC tested all prisoners and staff at NICI.

How serious were those cases?

Three of these were asymptomatic. I do not have information about the other two.

What age groups were involved?

I do not know.

How many employees had to be hospitalized and what were their ages?

We are unaware of any NICI staff being hospitalized due to COVID-19.

What was the cause of the outbreak?

I do not know.

What precautions were being taken and what additional measures have been implemented? Did those additional measures get implemented at other facilities too for extra protection? If so, what facilities?

Staff and prisoners are required to wear surgical masks in areas that do not have Covid patients or suspected Covid patients. Prisoners are allowed to remove their masks to eat, sleep, and exercise if they are maintaining social distancing. Staff may remove masks when they are in their office and no other staff are present. Staff working in the unit with COVID-positive prisoners or where there are suspected cases are required to wear N-95 masks. We are following CDC guidelines for correctional facilities.

We have eliminated contact of prisoners between housing units, isolating each unit from the others.

Staff and contractors are screened upon entry into the facility via four screening questions and a temperature daily. Staff that fail the screening are sent home and directed to contact our HR department who will advise the staff member to get tested. There are protocols in place for allowing staff to return to work that must be followed.

We check every prisoner's temperature daily and report those numbers to IDOC's Central Office. Medical staff are going out to each unit for sick call, and if an prisoner presents with symptoms they are brought to one of three isolation rooms, which are separate from the housing units and isolated until test results are returned from the lab. A \$2.00 medical co-pay for the incarcerated population has been waived for the last several months to encourage prisoners who are feeling sick to request to see medical staff. Prisoners with a positive test and symptomatic are sent to ICIO. All the asymptomatic, positive prisoners are housed on the same unit and isolated from the rest of the incarcerated population.

We disinfect the housing units frequently. We have a crew specifically trained for cleaning quarantine or isolation areas.

Any prisoners who have arrived at NICI in the last six weeks were quarantined in the Reception and Diagnostic Unit at Idaho State Correctional Institution south of Boise and tested for COVID-19 before being transported. As a further precaution, those men are quarantined for an additional 14 days upon arrival at NICI. The last transport to NICI happened in mid-August. We have housed those residents at highest risk (as identified by medical staff) in a unit that is separate from the other units. No one housed in this unit has presented with symptoms or tested positive for COVID as of today.

Were the inmates who tested positive in fact quarantined at your Orofino facility? If so, for how long and why is that considered the best way to handle the cases?

Prisoners who presented with symptoms and then tested positive were sent to ICIO out of an abundance of caution. That facility has around-the-clock medical staff, while NICI only has medical staff onsite for 16 hours a day. Inmates sent to Orofino because of a positive test, will stay quarantined at that facility for 14 days after the date of the positive test. So far, we have been able to return to NICI the first four men who were sent to ICIO.