

4/12/2020 5:43:31 AM exposure issues

"Yesterday morning at a.m. medication pass the nurse is wearing a surgical mask (her name is Jean), which she never has done before. When I ask her why she says because she had been exposed to someone who had tested positive to COVID-19. When asked her - somewhat stunned - why she was here and not self-quarantining she quickly responds, "Well, I don't have any symptoms," and then hurries off! And I'm left thinking, just because you don't currently have symptoms doesn't mean you aren't contagious. And the CDC and President's Task Force every day are on TV stating if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive you should self-isolate/quarantine. And here she is passing out medication on the one unit and one wing that has the most at risk and vulnerable prisoners in the whole DOC!!!!

To exacerbate the matter, later that day (4-10-20) I was called to get my lower legs wrapped in 4-layer bandaging. And the same nurse, Jean, this time without even a mask, is the one assigned to the bandaging! Really?!

It doesn't end there. Just earlier this evening (4-11-20) Sgt. Cascaddan comes onto the wing. She has a mask on as well when she never has before. She, too, admits that she had been exposed to someone who had COVID-19. When I asked her why the hell she wasn't self-quarantining, she replied that she couldn't, that the DOC had ordered that they come into work unless they were showing symptoms! The implication being that if they didn't come into work that they would be fired or disciplined. Again, is contrary to the instructions/directives of federal and state authorities and the CDC."

It feels like rather than admit to the public that they do not have the staff to deal with this, they will sacrifice prisoners willy nilly. Please help us get these men and women protected- their prison sentences were not supposed to be death sentence.

My husband called the Columbia County Sheriff and told him about it and he said all similar complaints go to prison security director. SO I called the security director to find out if there was indeed a policy that required staff members who have been exposed to people who have confirmed cases of Covid19 to come to work unless they have symptoms. He fudged around that all staff and prisoners would get masks as soon as they were available. But upon repeating my question he said I should talk to the administration and that they are doing everything they can to keep their staff and prisoners safe. He also said somewhere in there that my information was false. I gave him the names of the two staff members but I do not think he noted them. Both Ben and I contacted the DAI administrator and basically got answer that they are following safety protocols. Would not confirm or deny specific policy.