

# CORONAVIRUS CRISIS AT

## A TIMELINE

ELKTON: ~~PART IV~~

PART V.

by

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July 1st: More testing (our third round) same as was the case on June 22nd, but this time only one section, the quarantine section, was tested. Rumor had it that there were fewer nurses on hand this time, and that would continue to be the case at the FSL. I viewed this to be a follow-up round of testing to the second round in June. I had thought this until all the rest of us were called to tests.

July 2nd: Around ten people were called and moved to isolation. We had rec. A staff member told my cube mate that staff were not being made to test themselves for Coronavirus. Staff were not being tested!

July 3rd: Around eight to ten more people were moved to isolation. To me, this was a contradiction of the staff's actions from June 25th. I had realized -- an assumption, really, because we still hadn't been given any more explanation for their actions but from that confusing memo from June 19th -- that this must be the BOP's attempt at contact tracing. Another ludicrous move on their

part, if we agree that the virus had been here since February or March. And don't forget all of the rearranging done since then, too. Four months, weeks of what I view as unorganized planning, and we were back to day one, March 27th, essentially. And that memo, as confusing as it was, when re-read to try and add clarity to these recent moves, amounted to even less sense.

Where to begin? We were told that, as of June 25th, that there were now three types of areas: Isolation (the old quarantine), Quarantine (the new quarantine), and General Population. But Answers 1 and 2 of the June 19th memo do not clearly depict three types, imply, maybe, but not outright stated. And the 14-day count would get somewhat convoluted as testing -- from missing test kits that added delay to wide window waiting period on results -- continued, trying to be seven days apart but stretched beyond a reliable schedule. And we would only know of our results based on if we were made to move or not. And then there was the concept of contract tracing I had begun to suspect as part of their plans. It seemed you could test negative but still be in (or moved to) quarantine/isolation because you lived near someone who had tested positive. The memo fails to address those who have been to quarantine multiple times, currently or previously.

I believe the May round of testing (the first round) was just to sample the population. Then they saw that nearly half of the initial tests were positive and stopped. It would be nearly two months before the next round of testing began.

July 4th: A few -- maybe two -- were taken to isolation. No rec. was a beautiful day, saw a few fireworks that night.

July 5th: No rec.

July 7th: we did have rec. Rumor was that more testing was conducted on those in isolation.

And around this time, the 6th or 7th of July, the counts had changed. During "normal operations," on weekends, a standing count at 4:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. -- just like through the week -- are conducted. But on weekends, too, a 10:00 a.m. count is done. During this lockdown, starting on March 28th, they had conducted a 10:00 a.m. count every day. Then, around the 6th or 7th, that stopped and ~~on~~ Monday through Friday they ~~count~~ <sup>conducted</sup> a census count at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. -- no standing required. It was so out of the norm for the past several weeks that I had hardly noticed it at first. And it may seem like a minor change but it was a step back towards normalcy.

July 8th: An early (8:30 a.m.) round of testing (the fourth) began. This time we did not leave the housing unit and go to Health Services but, instead, were told to line up by a small TV room within our section as two nurses administered the tests. (There is near a hundred people in each section, remember.) The medical team worked their way through each section.

And we started to receive longer rec times.

July 9th: They tested those who had not received a test the day before because their assigned kits were missing from the pile.

A few are released from isolation to quarantine.

And once again, extra emphasis was made that we wear our masks when outside the unit -- again, too, no worry or fuss over wearing masks where it is most crowded: the units. Why all the excitement? The warden was back, standing outside at main line (the line for

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lunch) not making any attempt to speak to us or inform us as to staff's plans.

And we had rec.

July 10th: A few were sent to isolation, I believe. Rec -- yes.

July 11th: Maybe more were moved to isolation. Rumor was that, if you were being released to half way house, you would be put in quarantine -- a separate quarantine area -- and had to test negative two times in a row before you would be released.

July 12th: No rec.

July 13th: An hour of rec. I knew that some guys had been in isolation -- even way back when it was called quarantine -- for three weeks, coming on a full month, and felt that, surely, some would be released soon.

July 14th: Round number five of testing. Rec.

July 16th: Five to six were moved to isolation. Rec. And some time on the 13th or 14th of July, pill line and insulin line were ~~starting~~ to be conducted not a medical but at the Selby ports of the housing unit. Stairwell lines.

July 18th and 19th: No rec. No rec on weekends was becoming the trend.