



AROUND THE STATE: RMI AND ARF OFFICERS RESPOND TO DANGEROUS SITUATIONS ON THE YARD

Almost three dozen prisoners were involved in two simultaneous fights on different yards May 17 at Michigan Reformatory.

The Level IV inmates didn't comply with repeated orders to stop fighting. One inmate was kicked and punched as he lied on the ground. After all other options were exhausted, staff fired warning shots, which ended the violence. A prisoner was struck in the arm. Several weapons were later recovered.

No other serious injuries were reported.

More than 100 Gus Harrison inmates gathered on the yard to protest a lack of communication regarding COVID-19 test results and why prisoners were being moved to different units. Officers were also out of the loop, COs said.

The prisoners had been moved

to units for those who are positive, but no one had specifically told them their individual results. Some inmates realized they were positive when they saw a yard schedule detailing when positive and negative inmates could go out, COs said.

The inmates gathered on the south yard Tuesday and refused to return to their units. They eventually complied after speaking with staff. The Emergency Response Team, off-duty ARF staff, and local law enforcement were activated but called off once the situation was under control. Health care staff later shared results with inmates.

Instigators of the protest were sent to segregation.

Great work to the staff who responded to these dangerous situations this week. Stay safe.

COVID-19 UPDATES AND REMINDERS

- Members who have tested positive are still advised to contact MCO's outside law firm. Please contact The Law Offices of Charters, Tyler, Zack & Shearer, P. C. at (248) 321-4474. Tell them that you are a state corrections officer and contracted the virus. They will screen your case to determine if you are entitled to benefits. Please fill out the MCO Legal Department's [reporting form](#), then call the law office.

- There have been 341 cases confirmed among MDOC staff and 3,263 among inmates. [MDOC posts the latest numbers \(broken down by facility\) here.](#)

Statewide testing of prisoners is finished. Results for outstanding tests should be ready next week.

See all of MCO's virus info at mco-seiu.org/COVID-19.

Thank you, members, for your continued dedication during this pandemic. Stay well.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE AND ONLINE CLASS START DATE IS JUNE 1

Don't forget, the postmark deadline for MCO Scholarship applications is June 1. [Print an application from our website.](#)

MCO offers scholarships for members' children who will enter or return to college this fall. Twenty scholarships of \$750 each will be awarded. Previous MCO scholarship winners are not eligible.

The MCO Scholarship is just one

way the union helps members and their families afford college. If you are a new CO who still needs college credits for employment, or if you want to start working toward a college degree, check out our free online college. Act fast – summer classes start June 1.

There's also the Academy Debt and Student Debt Assistance programs. The Academy Assistance Program will disperse 20 awards of \$500 each to

current MCO members who paid out of pocket or took on debt to get their corrections training at a community college in 2014 or 2015. The Student Debt Assistance Program will award 20 grants of \$500 each to current MCO members who have student loans from earning an undergraduate degree. The deadline for these programs is Sept. 1.

Details on all programs are at mco-seiu.org/college-affordability.