



UPDATE ON ARBITRATION REGARDING FORCED LEAVE TIME FOR QUARANTINES

MCO has received the ruling on the grievance arbitration for the forced use of leave time for precautionary quarantines for members that did not test positive for COVID-19 but were still forced off due to close contact or symptoms.

The arbitrator did not grant our request for restoration of all leave credits. He based his decision not to restore leave credits on the fact that even though the Department forced members to use leave, they did in fact pay the members for the leave that was used. He ruled that if the leave credits were to be restored, it would create a windfall for the members because they would be getting credits back that they had already been paid for.

He also ruled that granting administrative leave was not an option for him to consider because the Department's policy on administrative leave gives the MDOC sole discretion on whether to grant administrative leave

and the MDOC declined to do so.

The arbitrator did rule that the Department cannot continue to force members to use leave credits for precautionary quarantines. It is optional. We believe that the Department will simply take the position that you can use leave credits or take lost time and save your leave credits.

This grievance was one of the two avenues we are using to get leave time restored for members who were off due to close contact or symptoms. We are still working on the other avenue for securing the restoration of leave credits through legislative measures and will exhaust all options.

Remember, this arbitration just pertained to those who were forced to quarantine but did not test positive. Members who tested positive for COVID-19 are eligible for partial time restoration through workers' comp benefits. [More info on workers' comp is in this KYI.](#)

AROUND THE STATE: IBC COs ASSAULTED; JCF INMATE DIES AFTER STABBING

A Bellamy Creek prisoner punched two officers who were preparing to restrain him for having a weapon in his cell.

The assault happened June 23. The prisoner was restrained and placed in segregation. Both officers were treated at the hospital, one of which received several stitches.

A Cotton prisoner died after being stabbed in a fight June 11. Two staff members were injured that day while breaking up fights.

Multiple fights broke out in a Level 4 unit when prisoners were allowed out of their cells to get breakfast trays. Staff responded quickly and recovered weapons. The fights were gang related.

An officer, a sergeant, and two inmates were sent to the hospital. One of the prisoners died from his wounds. The staff members and the other prisoner were treated and released.

Thirteen Level 4 prisoners at Chipewa were involved in a fight June 23 that left several prisoners injured.

Several weapons were involved. No staff were injured.

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The month of July is the open window period to apply for the seniority-based Gas Mask Exemption lists at each facility. Each shift has its own list, which is based on 10% of the shift and includes both seniority-based placements and medical accommodation placements. Requests must be sent via email to your local HR office and shift command.