Hello Victoria,

We are sorry to have missed your original deadline. We hope it was a soft deadline. As you can imagine, we are fielding a high volume of inquiries at this unprecedented time.

Similar to many of those in the surrounding community and across the state of Texas dealing with heat and water issues during the recent winter storm, the Federal Medical Center (FMC) Carswell experienced minor power, heat, and hot water issues that affected the main supply channels. However, back-up systems were in place and FMC Carswell maintained power, heat, and hot water until the main supply issues were resolved. Temperatures were monitored throughout the facility both during and after the maintenance period. Temperatures continue to be monitored daily and adjustments are made to equipment as deemed necessary.

On Sunday, February 14, 2021, there was an issue with the hot water heater for one of the housing units that was immediately addressed by appropriate staff. Running water to the unit was temporarily shut off to conduct repairs. Inmates were given advance warning of the planned water shut-off and were provided additional water during the repair period, which lasted approximately four hours.

While on Monday, February 15, 2021, there was a potable water supply-line leak into one of the units, the inmate population had access to potable water with no disruptions or shortages, to include hot water for showers, and the ability to flush toilets. Please note, FMC Carswell did not experience a sewage leak and at no time was there sewage inside the housing unit.

On Wednesday, February 17, 2021, there was a disruption to the main power supply of the facility as a result of a rolling blackout in the community. However, back-up systems were engaged which supplied ample power to the entire facility. As a result, inmates were supplied a boxed meal for lunch and dinner.

In an abundance of caution, staff provided additional blankets to the inmate population as an additional step to mitigate the cold temperatures affecting this region of the country.

For information about COVID-19, to include the BOP's COVID-19 Action Plan, the number of inmates tested, the number of open, positive test, COVID-19 cases for staff and inmates, and the official number of COVID-19 related deaths, please visit the BOP's Coronavirus resource page on our public website here https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp. Scroll down to the "Full Breakdown and Additional Details" link under the "COVID-19 Cases" heading for the number of cases at each institution.

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of this public health crisis, the BOP will update the open COVID-19 confirmed-positive test numbers, the number of COVID-19 tests conducted, and the number of COVID-19 related deaths every weekday at 3:00 p.m. The positive test numbers are based on the most recently available confirmed results involving open cases from across the agency as reported by the BOP's Office of Occupational Health and Safety. The number of open positive test cases only reflects current cases that have not been resolved. The total number of open, positive test, COVID-19 cases fluctuates up and down as new cases are added and resolved cases are removed.

COVID-19 transmission rates among staff and inmates in the BOP’s correctional institutions generally mirror those found in local communities. Fortunately, the BOP is using critical testing tools to help mitigate the spread of the virus. Like in every community, the number of positive cases reported in
prison typically rises with increased testing (not primarily as a result of transfers between prisons). However, the majority of the BOP's positive inmates are asymptomatic and healthy. The efficacy of the BOP's mitigation strategies can be seen in the very low number of hospitalized inmates.

Thank you.

Emery Nelson,