

**Subject:** FW: DOC Response to COVID-19 – March 2, 2020  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 3:06:07 PM

---

*A message to all Corrections staff*

As news coverage continues, we know our staff continues to have questions. At this time, Corrections is not considered an agency at high risk for COVID-19. To date, there have been NO cases of COVID-19 in a U.S. correctional facility.

Corrections has activated an Incident Command System for COVID-19, however, we are assuming normal and standard operations. There is no need to take additional precautions beyond those you would normally take to avoid the spread of colds and viruses like influenza.

**Protect yourself from exposure:**

- Wash your hands
- Sanitize surfaces as you would normally
- Wash your hands
- Cover your cough/sneeze
- Wash your hands
- Stay home if you are sick

The purchase and stockpile of additional personal protective equipment is not being recommended.

**DOC updates:** Over the past several weeks, we've posted updates on iDOC and sent an all-staff email regarding COVID-19 and the Department of Corrections' response:

- [Department of Corrections assistance in emergency response to COVID-19 \(2/26/2020\)](#)
- [UPDATE: Novel Coronavirus \(2/14/2020\)](#)
- [Novel Coronavirus \(1/24/2020\)](#)

**Coordination and response:** Corrections is working very closely with the Department of Health in outlining [preventative and mitigation methods](#) for COVID-19. Additionally, DOC

staff are currently assisting in the support of DOH's ongoing response to COVID-19.

The Department of Corrections has a [\*communicable disease, infection prevention and immunization program\*](#) to prevent the spread of communicable and infectious disease by providing prevention, education, identification through examination of staff and incarcerated individuals suspected of having a communicable disease, surveillance, immunization, treatment, follow-up, isolation and reporting.

All individuals received at a Washington Dept. of Corrections facility, including community supervision violators, will receive an initial health screening. Our interstate transport unit works with out-of-state holding facilities to ensure any person we pick up to transport back to our department has not been exposed.

Again, there is no need to take additional precautions beyond those you would normally take to avoid the spread of colds and viruses like influenza.

Agency staff will be updated as conditions change.

**Stephen Sinclair, Secretary**

Pronouns: he/him/his

Washington State Department of Corrections

(360) 725-8810 | [stephen.sinclair@doc.wa.gov](mailto:stephen.sinclair@doc.wa.gov)