



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
P.O. Box 41101 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1101

March 13, 2020

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

**SUBJECT: First confirmed staff case of COVID-19 at MCC**

Late yesterday, the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) received confirmation that an employee working at the Monroe Correctional Complex-Washington State Reformatory Unit (MCC-WSR) has tested positive for COVID-19. The employee last worked on March 8, was tested on March 10 and received results back yesterday, March 12.

We realize this news is concerning and we want to reassure you the employee, MCC leadership and human resources are working closely with our medical professionals. MCC leadership will stay in contact with this employee throughout the recovery process to make sure they get the care they need. We hope you will join us in wishing them a speedy recovery.

### **MCC response**

We are notifying other employees who were considered to be close contacts. Anyone confirmed to have been in close contact will be asked to self-quarantine at home until the suggested 14-day quarantine period ends. According to DOH, close contact includes:

- Living in the same household as a sick person with COVID-19;
- Caring for a sick person with COVID-19
- Being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 10 minutes; OR
- Being in direct contact with secretions from a sick person with COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed on, kissing, sharing utensils, etc.).

If you have not been in close contact with a sick person with COVID-19, you are considered to be at low risk for infection. You can continue to go to work and school, but

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should monitor your health for 14 days and stay away from others if you get sick. DOC's health services team, in consultation with the Dept. of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, has developed a specific protocol for COVID-19 screening, testing and infection control that they are updating regularly and have been distributing to health services staff and facility superintendents since March 5. Links to the latest guidance are below for your review.

MCC is also placing WSRU A and B units where the employee worked into precautionary quarantine/restricted movement for 10 days, until the 14-day quarantine period ends. MCC staff and unit porters will continue thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting the affected units and encouraging other precautionary activities.

### **DOC response**

DOC has been preparing for the possibility that employees, incarcerated individuals or individuals under supervision might test positive for COVID-19 or need to self-quarantine since the COVID-19 response began.

The department will continue to follow CDC guidance and take every precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including increasing routine cleaning and sanitation.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and I appreciate how difficult and scary this can be. My thoughts are with our quarantined employee. We also encourage you to please practice compassion and respect for the privacy of this employee and others who may be self-quarantined.

### **Additional Details and Resources**

As always, for more information on this evolving situation, please review the following resources:

- [DOH COVID-19 Information Center](#)
- [King County COVID-19 Fact Sheet](#)
- Headquarters EOC - [COVID-19 Situation Report and Communications](#) (pdf)
- [EAP: Coping with Stress During an Infection Disease Outbreak](#) (pdf)

This situation is constantly evolving. We will provide updates as things changes.