

## **Subject: DOC Response to COVID-19 - March 15, 2020**

A message to all incarcerated individuals

Over the last several days, the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) has received reports that two DOC employees have tested positive for COVID-19. The first was an employee working at the Monroe Correctional Complex-Washington State Reformatory Unit (MCC-WSRU). The employee last worked on March 8, was tested on March 10 and received results back on March 12. The second was an employee at DOC headquarters in Tumwater. Both are at isolated at home through their recovery.

### **Precautions for incarcerated population**

MCC placed WSRU A and B units where the MCC 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, including providing additional cleaning supplies to the men housed there. Since this is a precautionary quarantine, additional personal protective equipment (PPE) is not required.

At this time, Corrections has no reported cases of incarcerated individuals or individuals on supervision with COVID-19. The Department is following guidelines for individuals who show symptoms and those have been in close contact with those individuals. We are following isolation protocols for those who show symptoms and everyone who shows symptoms for COVID-19 is being tested. We are also following quarantine protocols for those who have potentially been exposed.

### **Symptoms to watch for:**

- Breathlessness
- Cough
- Fever

If you have any of these symptoms, notify health services staff immediately. All health care co-pays for incarcerated individuals being tested or treated for COVID-19 will be waived.

### **Prevention:**

- When coughing or sneezing, use tissue to cover nose and mouth
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water
- Avoid direct hand contact with eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with sick people and report concerns

We are asking for your assistance in helping us avoid exposing the incarcerated population to any contagious disease by increasing the sanitation efforts in your cells, living units and frequently touched surfaces.

**Enhanced screening protocols**

Effective immediately, all facilities will be conducting Enhanced Screening Stations for all persons entering the facility. Prior to entry, all individuals (staff, visitors, vendors, contractors, etc.) must complete the mandatory screening questionnaires, and have their temperature taken.

Understanding that appropriate thermometers may not be readily available at this time, the remaining mandatory enhanced protocols will be in place until such time thermometers are available.

Those individuals who fail any portion of the enhanced screening protocol, display obvious signs of a respiratory illness, (i.e. coughing, difficulty breathing), or refuse to participate in the screening process will be denied access to the facility/office and a supervisor should be contacted for further direction.

Thank you for your contribution to helping keep everyone safe and healthy during this time.

This situation is constantly evolving. We will provide updates as things change. Please continue to take care of yourselves.