



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1110

April 10, 2020

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals

FROM: DOC Health Services

**SUBJECT: DOC Response to COVID-19 Message from Health Services**

Health Services wanted to take a moment to talk to you about how DOC is responding to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and what you can do to protect yourself. We recognize that there is a lot of fear both in the community and inside our facilities given all the information on the news. At times things can get very confusing as information is often changing as we learn about the virus. We want to let you know that we are taking this all very seriously and are working very hard to keep you safe. Here are some of the things DOC is doing for everyone's protection:

- Screening all staff and new intakes for COVID-19 before they enter a DOC facility
- Screening people prior to getting on and when getting off a bus when transferring between facilities
- Cleaning and disinfecting more often
- Increasing supplies needed to protect everyone
- Keeping people 6 feet apart (physical distancing) whenever possible
- Changing, or when necessary, cancelling activities and events when unable to keep 6 feet between people
- Increasing access to handwashing
- Providing masks and other supplies when needed (as determined by a medical provider) to help prevent spread of COVID-19
- Separating individuals who may have COVID-19 or at risk of developing COVID-19 from those who are well. We understand that being in by yourself for a period of time can be difficult, but this is for the safety of you and everyone else.
- Continuing to provide urgent and emergent care

Here are some things you can do to stay safe:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your mouth with the inside of your elbow whenever you cough or sneeze
- Help clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces like tables, door knobs, etc.
- Report symptoms of a new cough, fever, shortness of breath or sore throat. This is very important both for your own health as well as everyone else around you. Although you may only have mild symptoms, those around you may be at risk for more severe symptoms.

With the help of our state and federal partners, we will continue to make changes to help protect you and our staff. We know that we are in this together.