

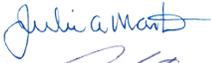


STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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April 18, 2020

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
All Work Release Residents

FROM: Julie Martin, Deputy Secretary 
Robert Herzog, Assistant Secretary 
Susie Leavell, Reentry Senior Administrator 

SUBJECT: Appropriate Use of Hand Sanitizer

The Department of Corrections (DOC) continually reviews guidance as provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the safest and most effective ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In addition to maintaining a social distance from others (six feet or more), and using a cloth face covering over your mouth and nose, frequent hand washing with soap and water for a period of at least 20 seconds is still one of the most effective ways to protect yourself. As such, DOC will continue to provide courtesy bars of soap during this difficult time.

Guidance from the CDC indicates that alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be another option to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but only if soap and water are not readily available. DOC understands that some common areas; such as certain program areas, dining areas, and recreation yards, may not have immediate access to soap and water. To increase your ability to practice proper hygiene, DOC has started providing hand sanitizer dispensing stations in those specified areas. It is important to remember that soap and water is known to kill more germs and clean more effectively, therefore it is recommended that once you return to an area with soap and water, that you wash your hands immediately.

Hand sanitizer works best when you rub a dime-sized amount all over your hands, making sure to get in between your fingers and onto the back of your hands, for at least 20 seconds or until dry. You should not use hand sanitizer if your hands are visibly greasy or dirty.

It is critically important that you understand the dangers of attempting to drink alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Drinking even a small amount of alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be extremely dangerous, and can result in several serious, even life threatening effects.

CC: All Superintendents
All Work Release Supervisors

“Working Together for SAFE Communities”