



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

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April 18, 2020

TO: All McNeil Island Stewardship Staff

FROM: Sarah Sytsma, Correctional Industries Director *Sarah Sytsma*

SUBJECT: **Confirmed Positive Case at Special Commitment Center**

On Friday, April 17, 2020, we received notification that an employee at the Department of Social and Health Service (DSHS) Special Commitment Center (SCC) has tested positive for COVID-19. The employee was at their work location when they received notification of their positive test results. SCC immediately initiated their protocol for sending the employee home safely. There are no confirmed cases of Department of Corrections (DOC) employees at McNeil Island.

Upon receiving the positive report, DSHS and DOC immediately performed deep cleaning and sanitizing of multiple areas; to include the Steilacoom Dock House, Staff Screening Trailer, and passenger ferry. DSHS will map the employee's movement, to include the ferry runs both to and from the island. We don't want to cause unnecessary alarm and remind you all that mandatory social distancing practices on the ferry began on March 31.

DOC's Health Services team, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, has developed a specific protocol for COVID-19 screening, testing and infection control and are updating it regularly. For the latest updates on this process, please refer to the most current updates posted to doc.wa.gov/covid-19. The team will be working with DSHS to identify any potential DOC employees who may be considered close contacts with the positive SCC employee.

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

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If this is a stressful time for you, please remember the [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) and [Staff Psychologists](#) are available. These are free and confidential services.

Take care of yourself, stay positive and support one another. Remember to wash your hands, wear appropriate face coverings and continue to practice social distancing.

cc: Scott Shapiro

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"