



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**PRISONS DIVISION**

P. O. Box 41118 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1118

April 22, 2020

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals

FROM: Julie Martin, Deputy Secretary *J. Martin*  
Robert Herzog, Assistant Secretary *R. Herzog*

RE: **Phone Use for those on Medical Isolation Status**

Medical isolation is defined in the *WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline* as “separating a symptomatic patient with a concern for a communicable disease from other patients.” The measure of placing an incarcerated individual into medical isolation is to protect them, as well as to reduce the chance of transmission of COVID-19, or other communicable illness. As part of these protective measures, individuals on medical isolation are not authorized to leave their cells other than as directed for medical or security reasons, and for a weekly shower after Day 7 on medical isolation.

Individuals being placed into medical isolation shall be able to take personal belongings with them as appropriate, to include their address book, pen and paper, and their JPay players, in order to maintain contact with loved ones. However, we also understand that phone contact is crucial, especially in situations such as this.

DOC is working to secure transportable telephones so that individuals in medical isolation are able to make phone calls to loved ones on a weekly basis. However, until these phones are available, a staff person will be designated at each facility to make a weekly phone call to an identified person on behalf of individuals on medical isolation to provide information that they have been placed into medical isolation as a protective measure, as well as providing a weekly update on their status.

If you are placed onto medical isolation status, you will be asked to provide the name and telephone number of an identified person for the weekly phone call, and that information will be provided to the designated staff person making the call. The designated staff person will verify no current restrictions on contact exist prior to making the call. The call will be noted in OMNI via chrono.