



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
P.O. Box 41101 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1101

May 1, 2020

**TO:** All Incarcerated Individuals

**FROM:** Stephen Sinclair, Secretary 

**SUBJECT: Establishment of Regional Care Facilities**

The Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) is taking deliberate steps to continue to mitigate the spread of infection to the incarcerated population, staff and general public. In the event there is a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases within Washington's correctional facilities, DOC requested an external agency assessment of the department's operational ability to support an overflow of incarcerated individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19.

The agencies developing these assessments included 10 representatives from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), their Statewide Isolation Task Force (SITF), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). DOH-SITF evaluated healthcare needs and USACE evaluated the structural needs.

Suitable locations for potential sites, referred to as a Regional Care Facility (RCF), were previously identified by department leaders and key stakeholders, including local facility subject matter experts. These plans identified each area within an RCF to include a mapped set-up of beds, nursing areas and hand washing stations. Collaboration with representatives from both DOH's SITF and the USACE provided key, strategic information that was integral to identifying ideal locations for the establishment of RCF's, and viable alternatives that included utilizing preexisting resources and structures.

The DOH and USACE assessments evaluated DOC plans to establish RCF operations at Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC) and at the Washington Corrections Center (WCC). These RCF's would be conversions of preexisting spaces to provide overcapacity support to agency operations on both the east and west sides of Washington State. RCF's will also help mitigate the stress on resources, staff and incarcerated populations.

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Programming currently occurring in the areas that have been identified for RCF's will be relocated to alternative areas within the facility, without interruption to delivery of services or activities.

These RCF's would safely and comfortably house incarcerated individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and may require more comprehensive medical attention and physical isolation from healthy populations, but do not require hospitalization. Should an infected individual's medical conditions or needs become severe, the department and agency medical personnel will work collaboratively with hospital partners to provide the necessary medical care.

Planning is moving forward with preliminary site establishment at both AHCC and WCC anticipated to begin within the next two weeks. Other considerations are being reviewed for additional RCF's at Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) and Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC).

cc: All Superintendents  
Julie Martin, Deputy Secretary  
Robert Herzog, Assistant Secretary