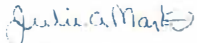





STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

June 23, 2020

TO: All Staff and Incarcerated Individuals

FROM: Julie Martin, Deputy Secretary 
Rob Herzog, Assistant Secretary 

Subject: **Phased approach to programming and education**

We know the COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of changes to your routines and regular activities, which along with all the information on the news, social media and the ever-changing recommendations you receive from a variety of sources, brings things into question. Since the release of the Department's [Safe Start Corrections](#) plan on June 10, 2020, concerns have been raised regarding programming and education that is still taking place in the facilities and not in the community.

We would like to clear up any confusion around the *Programs and Volunteers* area in the Department's Safe Start Corrections plan.

Under *Programs and Volunteers*, it lists the following programs suspended in Phases 1 and 2: Education, Cognitive Behavioral Intervention, Thinking for a Change, Sex Offender Treatment and Assessment Program, and Chemical Dependency treatment, and that they don't resume until Phase 3 and 4.

The Safe Start Corrections Plan is a guide and is not intended to detail every aspect of every program or activity that has been suspended, modified, or continued. This phased recovery plan determines when distancing measures can be lifted and involves assessing COVID-19 activity in the state along with health care system readiness, testing capacity and availability, case and contact investigation and the ability to protect high risk populations and was partly informed by Governor Inslee's [Safe Start Washington](#) plan.

Programming/education currently taking place continues

Programming and education at facilities that is currently taking place will continue. Careful consideration was taken to protect the health and safety of all incarcerated individuals as well as employees and members of the general public who work in Washington prisons. We are working with the Joint Information Center team to help make the guidance more clear.

The Department is committed to establishing a new normal routine and will closely monitor the progress of the state's phased recovery plan. We will continue to communicate plans to resume more programming and education when new information is available.

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"