



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1110

July 10, 2020

TO: All Prisons and Work Release Staff

FROM: Julie Martin, Deputy Secretary *Julie Martin*  
Robert Herzog, Assistant Secretary, Prisons Division *Robert Herzog*  
Danielle Armbruster, Assistant Secretary, Reentry Division *Danielle Armbruster*

RE: Updated Guidance: Face Covering Use by Incarcerated Individuals and Work Release Residents

On April 10, 2020, Corrections Secretary Stephen Sinclair announced mandatory face coverings for all persons in our facilities, including incarcerated individuals and those residing in our work release facilities. Wearing our face coverings as directed is an important factor in preventing the spread of COVID-19 across our facilities.

That memo included the reminder: Use of cloth face coverings, either purchased or homemade, must meet the requirements of DOC 870.400 Personal Appearance/Uniform Standards, which states “Clothing that depicts violence, gang affiliation, alcohol, or drugs, or which could be construed as sexual in nature, is not authorized.”

We have authorized incarcerated individuals and work release residents to decorate their face coverings within appropriate guidelines. We also advised you that if you encounter someone wearing a face covering that depicts violence, derogatory statements, security threat group markings or symbols, or other offensive images, the face covering should be immediately confiscated, a BOE should be entered, and a new face covering should be issued.

We encourage you to use professional discretion and verbal skills to address these situations in an appropriate fashion. As noted, the primary concern is that the individual is covering their nose and mouth in an effort to protect themselves and others. If your professional intervention is met with extreme hostility or disruption, please contact a supervisor immediately for assistance.

We thank you for your continued patience and professionalism, and appreciate the continued dedication and respect so many of you are exhibiting consistent with our agency values.