



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

July 21, 2020

**TO:** All interested parties

**FROM:**   
Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

**Subject: Staff and Incarcerated Individual COVID-19 Testing at MCC**

In an attempt to prevent ongoing transmission after a recent increase in positive cases at the Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC), the facility began COVID-19 testing of the incarcerated population housed at the Minimum Security Unit (MSU) on Friday, July 10, 2020 and will start testing all staff at the facility on Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

**A partnership with the Snohomish Health District and Washington Department of Health**

Testing will occur in partnership with the [Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) and [Snohomish Health District](#). Department of Health employees will assist in testing MCC employees similar to the way they have assisted in testing efforts in the surrounding communities.

The test involves collecting a nasal specimen to detect active infection. It is not an antibody test and does not reflect possible immune status from a previous infection. The test consists of a swab inserted into the nose and rotated. It is not the more invasive nasopharyngeal swab and individuals may be asked to collect the specimen themselves.

**Testing of incarcerated individuals**

On July 10, 2020, the MSU facility was placed on modified restricted movement due to being quarantined. Individuals outside of their cubicle/cell area were encouraged to practice social distancing while wearing their face coverings. All staff at MSU were also required to wear surgical masks.

All scheduled transfers for MCC-MSU were temporarily postponed and releases from MCC-MSU occurred as they had been previously, following established protocols in the current version of the [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline](#). Positive test results continue to be posted on the [Department's COVID-19 Data](#) page.

**Testing of employees**

All staff will be tested either prior to reporting to their assigned work location/post or during their assigned shift. Testing will be conducted on all three shifts.

***“Working Together for SAFER Communities”***

To help prevent ongoing transmission at the facility moving forward, staff testing will be repeated every seven days until further notice. This is known as serial testing. Test results are expected back in three to five days.

**What happens next?**

Depending on test results, incarcerated individuals may be moved to a different housing assignment, to include the MCC COVID Unit. Individuals who test positive will be housed within the same living area. Individuals who test negative will be tested a second time and those who receive a double negative result will be housed in the same living area.

Incarcerated individuals who refuse testing will be treated as if they are positive and will be placed in a separate medical isolation area to prevent potential spread.

Staff whose results come back positive will be placed on home isolation immediately and will then work with HR moving forward.

We are grateful to our staff and incarcerated population for their ongoing commitment to keeping themselves and each other safe and healthy.