



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

July 31, 2020

To: All Prisons Staff

From:  
Arminda Svoboda and I
Prisons/Health Services Unified Command Incident Commanders

Subject: Staff Serial COVID-19 Testing

We are constantly evaluating and assessing our practices given the ever-changing circumstances regarding COVID-19 response, both locally and across our country. The health and safety of our staff and incarcerated individuals continues to be our top priority. Each one of us plays a critical role in taking proactive measures to protect the wellbeing of our coworkers and the population.

Prisons/Health Services Unified Command has assembled the Staff Testing Group that is working in partnership with the Washington State Department of Health to develop a toolbox to assist facilities across the state in implementing staff serial COVID-19 testing. There are several factors this team has taken into consideration in determining how to prioritize staff serial COVID-19 testing.

These factors include:

- The county percentage of COVID-19 positive cases
- The staff percentage of COVID-19 positive cases
- The incarcerated individual percentage of COVID-19 positive cases
- The increase in growth rate of COVID-19 positive cases in any of the aforementioned factors.

Based on current data, the following facilities have been identified to begin staff testing over the next several weeks as resources come available:

1. Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW)
2. Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC)
3. Washington State Penitentiary (WSP)

With that said, as we see cases increase rapidly in various counties and facilities, any facility could be identified as a testing location. Facility Incident Command Posts will be notified if they are determined to be an identified facility for staff serial COVID-19 testing. The Staff Testing Group will work with each facility's Incident Management Team to ensure they receive the training, materials, and support needed to implement staff serial testing.

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Teamsters 117 has been supportive of our efforts to keep everyone safe, to include implementing staff serial COVID-19 testing where necessary.

Thank you for your continued diligence during these challenging times. Please take care of yourselves, stay positive, and remember to follow these simple ways to help reduce the spread of COVID-19: socially distance whenever possible, wear your face covering appropriately, and wash your hands.