



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

August 7, 2020

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Tomas Fithian, Deputy Director, Command C
Prisons Division

Subject: False COVID-19 positive tests at Stafford Creek Corrections Center

On Friday, July 31, 2020, the Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) received information that two incarcerated individuals had tested positive for COVID-19. The two individuals were medically isolated for treatment and the facility was put on restricted movement due to possible exposure. Staff began working on contact mapping with these individuals to determine who else could have been exposed.

Over the weekend, the facility tested all incarcerated individuals in the H 1 B Pod living unit, and all of those tests returned negative.

Earlier this week, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) notified the Department of Corrections that their quality analysis and testing group had detected a problem with the positive test results they had previously provided. DOH staff reevaluated the original samples in order to provide the correct testing results. As a result, neither of the incarcerated individuals had in fact tested positive.

SCCC waited until it had the corrected test results before approving the release of individuals from quarantine and isolation housing to ensure it was safe to do so.

As of August 7, 2020, SCCC has no reported positive cases of COVID-19 among its incarcerated population or staff. Both the incarcerated population and staff continue to protect themselves against exposure to COVID-19 by wearing appropriate face coverings, practicing social distancing, washing their hands regularly, and employing increased sanitization, including frequently cleaning cells and other high-touch areas.