



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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TO: All Prisons Staff
FROM: *Miller* *Katrina Henry*
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DATE: Sept. 30, 2020
SUBJECT: Prison/Health Services Divisions Safe Start Corrections

In June 2020, the Department of Corrections Emergency Operations Center's Advanced Planning Team used the [Governor's Safe Start Plan](#) to develop and align a phased re-opening approach for DOC, taking into account the unique environment of corrections.

As COVID-19 Response has undergone many adjustments, so will DOC's [Safe Start Corrections Plan](#). We have monitored adjustments in the Safe Start Washington since the plan was first introduced and published.

In August 2020, the Safe Start Corrections Prisons and Health Services Team was formed. This team focused at that time on the study of visitation options.

The Prisons and Health Services Safe Start Corrections Prisons Team has again gathered to study and provide recommendations on commencing tasks that have been suspended as a result of COVID-19. The team is comprised of various represented and non-represented job classes within Prisons and Health Services Divisions. Primary members will also be joined by subject matter experts as the topics of review are considered.

Currently the team is working on reviewing re-implementation of searches, including pat searches, cell searches, strip searches and staff searches, not only based on suspicion, but focused once again towards penological objectives to enhance the safety of our facilities.

The team plans to implement some elements of searching prior to visitation opening. At this time, the team is still working on developing a plan and implementation strategies for approval. Once the team finalizes and approves its plans, they will provide more information.