



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

Oct. 1, 2020

TO: All Staff and Residents at Progress House Work Release

FROM: Susie Leavell, Senior Reentry Administrator

RE: Facility Quarantine

I want to provide a status update on a COVID-19 outbreak at the Progress House Work Release facility in Tacoma, Wash.

First, I want each of you to know there is an outpouring of support being provided by the facility staff, agency staff, Washington Department of Health (DOH), and Pierce County Emergency Management for you at the facility. I am sure that it could feel overwhelming or stressful to be working or housed in a facility that has confirmed positive COVID-19 cases. Our agency has taken safety measures to stop the outbreak and respond with the intent of maintaining public and individual safety.

The status of positive cases are 12 positive cases among the population and one positive case among staff. The staff is isolating at home per local DOH requirements. The incarcerated individuals who tested positive have been transferred to a DOH facility for the duration of the isolation period. It is important to distinguish that all of the cases were asymptomatic. Once the isolation period is complete, those individuals will return to the facility and their regular routine (such as going to work, etc.) may resume.

We will all work together and make our way through this challenging time. The Department is appreciative for everyone's cooperation in following the CDC recommended protocols of social distancing, sanitation, and wearing face coverings. It is important to self-report if feeling symptomatic and to observe and practice the COVID protocols so that everyone continues to remain safe.

Thank you for your efforts and please talk with staff about any questions or for clarification around expectations. Though challenging, we are all going through this together and, as a team, we'll soon again return to our new normal.