



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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October 29, 2020

TO: All Prisons Staff
Miller *Ronna Cole*
FROM: Arminda Miller and Ronna Cole
 Prisons/Health Services Unified Command Incident Commanders
SUBJECT: Resuming Routine Searches under Safe Start Corrections – Phase 2

The Department of Corrections’ Prisons and Health Services Unified Command Safe Start Corrections Prison team has announced the department will start resuming routine searches outlined in **Phase 2** of the Safe Start Corrections Plan starting **November 9, 2020**.

Currently, we are operating under Phase 1 guidelines. See Phase 2 changes below that affect pat searches, strip searches, cell searches and staff searches, not only based on suspicion, but focused once again towards penological objectives which enhance the safety of our facilities. See the attachment for further direction for searching an individual’s face covering.

Prisons Health Services Unified Command - Safe Start Corrections

Area/Step	Phase 1 Prior to 11/9/2020	Phase 2 Effective Date: <u>11/9/2020</u> NO LESS THAN 3 WEEKS	Phase 3 Effective Date: <u>TBD</u> NO LESS THAN 3 WEEKS	Phase 4 Effective Date: <u>TBD</u> NEW NORMAL
<p><u>Search Notes</u> Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all searches per current COVID-19 PPE matrix.</p> <p>Strip Search: Where applicable a body scan may</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Search: random searches suspended, reasonable suspicion searches only. • Strip search: performed at a distance of 6 feet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Search: random searches limited to high risk locations (e.g., program areas) at 50% of normal and reasonable suspicion. • Strip search: Resume random strip searches in previously designated areas and reasonable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Search: limited to high risk areas (e.g., program areas) at 75% of normal and reasonable suspicion. • Strip Search: Resume strip searches as normal while 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Search: resume pat search process. Cell Search: resume cell search and inspection process. • Facility Access Searches: search of employees, contract staff

<p>be performed in place of a strip search.</p> <p>All policy required transport searches should continue in all phases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell Search: random searches and cell inspections suspended, reasonable suspicion only. • Facility Access Searches: Routine, random and mandatory pat searches of employees and contract staff suspended. 	<p>suspicion. Performed at a distance of 6 feet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell Search: resume cell searches at 50%; cell inspections at 100% of normal. • Facility Access Searches: Resume/continue random searches of employees and contract staff per DOC Policy 420.120 Facility Access Searches and Allowable Items. Randomizer buttons indicating mandatory metal detector and pat searches will resume at 50% of normal. Staff will sanitize prior to using the randomizer button. Mandatory monthly searches remain suspended. 	<p>performed at a distance of 6 feet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell Search: Increase cell searches 75% of normal, unless reasonable suspicion. • Facility Access Searches: Increase the rate of search of employees and contract staff to 75% of normal. Members of the public without DOC Identification will be searched at the rate of 100%. Mandatory monthly searches remain suspended. 	<p>and volunteers to return at normal rate. Mandatory monthly searches of 100% of everyone accessing the secured perimeter resume. Members of the public without DOC Identification will be searched at the rate of 100%.</p>
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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements:

- Staff and incarcerated individuals are required to wear face coverings during searches, the short duration of a pat search is within guidelines for close proximity with proper PPE. The [department’s COVID-19 PPE Matrix](#) identifies the type of face coverings staff are required to wear during searches. It also defines what PPE staff should wear while searching individuals in general population, for transports and

those on isolation/quarantine.

- Staff are not required to wear any additional PPE to conduct a pat search, other than what is noted in the department’s COVID-19 PPE matrix, as the individual being searched will have their back to the correctional officer during the search.
- The department’s clinical team has indicated there is no medical reason for a requirement to change gloves between searching people. Out of an abundance of caution, staff are required to apply hand sanitizer to gloves between searches if you are not donning/doffing PPE between each pat search.
- Staff members who choose to doff/don gloves between each pat search must clean hands before putting on and after removing gloves. Please refer to the most recent [COVID-19 PPE Matrix](#) and [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing and Infection Control Guideline](#).
- Strip searches in Phase 2 can be conducted with reasonable suspicion and in designated areas and should be conducted at a distance of six feet or more.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation and the phased plan above may be subject to change. The Prisons and Health Services Unified Command Safe Start Corrections team will continue monitoring conditions within our facilities and send out notifications if any changes occur.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we continue to work through this in as safe a manner as possible.

AM/RC:

Attachment

Cc: Robert Herzog, Assistant Secretary, Prisons
All Prisons Deputy Directors
All Superintendents

An Illustrated Guide to Searching an Individual's Face Covering During a Pat Search

Correctional officers are now required to search face coverings at the start of all routine pat searches. During the pat search, corrections officers will systematically and safely search all items carried and/or worn by the individual being searched.

Correctional officers are required to wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) during all searches to minimize chances of transmitting COVID-19. The department's [COVID-19 PPE Matrix](#) outlines the types of PPE staff are required to wear in the environment where the search occurs.

Directions for Searching a Face Covering During a Pat Search

1. Direct the person to stand for search.
2. Once the person is facing away from you, the individual will remove their mask and hold it with both hands in front of you so you can observe both sides of the face covering clearly. (Photos 1 and 2)
 - a. If there is no reasonable suspicion making it necessary for you to physically search the facing covering, allow the person to put it back on.
 - b. If there is reasonable suspicion to investigate the person's face covering, direct them to continue facing forward and hand the mask back to you (Photo 3). If the face covering is clear of contraband, hand it back to the person, while instructing them to remain facing forward.
3. Once the inspection/search of the face covering is completed, proceed with pat search procedures.

Photo Illustrations



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3