



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1110

November 3, 2020

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
FROM: DOC Chief of Dentistry and Facility Dental Teams
SUBJECT: Update - Dental Modification to DOC Dental Services

As of **Monday, November 9, 2020**, we will be providing more dental services across the Department of Corrections (DOC).

In a calculated effort to protect the incarcerated population and the DOC dental teams, we have implemented the following changes throughout all DOC dental departments:

- Installation of HEPA filter air purification systems to reduce the spread of unfiltered aerosolized droplets. Aerosols are liquid droplets in air. The coronavirus can be trapped in these water droplets. Several dental treatments that require the use of a dental drill form aerosols. HEPA filters are designed to trap most particles, including bacteria and viruses which reduces the spread.
- Prior to aerosol producing dental procedures (& dental procedures that could become aerosolized), all incarcerated individuals will be tested for COVID-19, utilizing the current COVID-19 dental protocol. If you refuse to be tested, your dental appointment may be rescheduled for a later date.

The following dental services can be provided (kites and previously scheduled appointments will be reviewed to determine the priority of a procedure):

- Comprehensive Oral Examinations
- Denture Services
- Endodontic Services (root canals according to the current DOC Health Plan)
- Dental Hygiene (only allowed when deemed urgent by the prescribing dentist)
- Intake Dental Screenings
- Limited Oral Examinations (sick call, D3 evaluations, etc.)
- Oral Surgery (extractions)
- Oral Radiology (x-rays)
- Restorations (fillings- priority will depend on the size of the cavity)

DOC will continue to update dental services in line with the current DOC COVID-19 guidelines. We will also consider the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in our facilities and communities. Our desire is to safeguard the health and safety of our patients and our dental teams. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”