



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

November 4, 2020

**TO:** All DOC Employees

**FROM:** Jamison Roberts   
EOC Manager

**SUBJECT:** Updated Definition of Close Contact

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) have recently updated the definition of close contact as it relates to COVID-19 exposure. Department of Corrections (DOC) clinical leadership has now also updated our definition of close contact in consideration of the most recent CDC's update.

Effective November 4, 2020, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 for a cumulative total of ten minutes within a twenty-four hour period. Previously, the definition was ten consecutive minutes. With the new definition, close contact could include multiple, brief exposures to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 that total a minimum of ten minutes.

Agency documents will be updated to include the current definition of close contact and will be distributed as soon as the revision has been made. You can expect forthcoming updated versions of the PPE matrix and COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guidelines Version 22 shortly.

Until that time, this definition supersedes any previous definition of a close contact as it relates to COVID-19.

In light of this updated definition of close contact, coupled with the current rise of positive cases in Washington and the upcoming holiday season, it is critically important that we all stay physically 6 feet or more apart from one another when possible, wash our hands frequently, and wear a face covering and appropriate PPE properly. By continuing to follow these necessary steps, we can remain safe and healthy.