




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

November 6, 2020

TO: All employees, contractors and those entering department locations
FROM: Stephen Sinclair, Secretary 
SUBJECT: Mandatory Use of Surgical Masks

Effective immediately, the department is enhancing personal protective equipment (PPE) measures and requiring **all departmental staff, contract staff and persons entering all department locations** to wear surgical masks. At this time, the requirement does not apply to incarcerated individuals, those incarcerated in work release facilities and/or community violators. This action is due to the increased number of COVID-19 cases in communities across our state. This requirement will remain in place throughout the holiday season as an additional protective measure.

All department locations will be required to provide surgical masks for usage by staff, contractors and others entering department locations. Additional supplies of surgical masks are being distributed to all locations and will be available to staff, contractors and persons entering all department locations, upon request. The directive to provide and wear surgical masks for all staff, contractors and persons entering all department locations will be effective through January 15, 2020.

To preserve the health and wellbeing of ourselves and our co-workers, it is critically important that we all continue to stay physically six feet or more apart from one another when possible, wash our hands frequently, and properly wear the appropriate PPE.

By continuing to follow these necessary steps, we can remain safe and healthy.