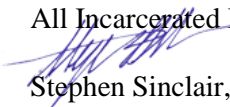




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

November 25, 2020

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
FROM:  Stephen Sinclair, Secretary
SUBJECT: Required COVID-19 Safety Practices

On July 10, 2020, you were sent a memo referencing an April 17, 2020 memo sent to all incarcerated individuals, entitled *Mandatory Use of Face Coverings*, requiring mandatory face covering use by all incarcerated individuals within our correctional facilities.

Several messages have been shared with you since that time regarding the importance of face coverings and their proper use. This message is being sent to remind you of the importance of wearing your face covering appropriately, as well as to ensure social distancing is maintained as able to do so.

As a reminder, social distancing requires leaving a space of at least six (6) feet between yourself and others. The research available continues to show that covering your mouth and nose appropriately, in coordination with maintaining a safe distance of six feet, helps to reduce the risk for acquiring or spreading the COVID-19 virus.

As this is such a critical step in helping to slow the potential spread of COVID-19 in our facilities, those who are found to be violating this requirement may receive a general infraction for violating WAC 103 – Failing to follow any oral/written orders rules, or policies.

This is not intended to punish, but rather to show the seriousness and importance of following the requirements that have been established for your safety, and the safety of others around you. It is my hope that you will continue to follow these directions to help mitigate the risk of potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Our top priority as an agency has been, and will continue to be, the safety of our incarcerated population, our staff, and our communities.

I again thank you for your continued patience and compliance with all our efforts to protect the health and safety of our incarcerated population, our staff and our communities.

SS:jmc

Cc: Robert Herzog, Assistant Secretary, Prisons Division
All Prisons Deputy Directors
All Superintendents
Prisons/Health Services Unified Command

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”