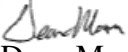




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

December 3, 2020

TO: WCC All Staff
FROM: 
Dean Mason, Associate Superintendent
SUBJECT: WCC Restricted Movement due to COVID-19

By now, you have likely seen a flurry of activity occurring around the facility in response to a recent uptick of positive COVID-19 cases at Washington Corrections Center (WCC). As of today the facility has a total of 262 incarcerated persons and 20 staff that have tested positive for COVID-19. Many other staff members have been mapped out as “close contacts”. To say the least, all of this has created a significant strain on resources and has caused us to be creative in setting up alternative housing areas to accommodate and contain the spread of this highly contagious disease.

Today, WCC moved to a restricted movement status to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the facility. This change will impact our incarcerated population’s ability to attend regularly scheduled programs, call-outs and services.

By taking these steps, we intend to minimize the short and long-term impacts that our response will have on our incarcerated population. All movement of the incarcerated population, other than for medical services or emergencies, has been halted. Additional units are being placed on quarantine as necessary and those individuals testing positive for COVID-19 positive and that are asymptomatic, are being moved to medical isolation areas. The current designated area for medical isolation is the main gymnasium that has been converted to an alternate housing area. Critical operational areas, specifically the kitchen and the laundry, are being operated with regularly assigned staff with the support of additional volunteer staff from other non-critical areas.

We understand the tremendous burden to our staff as a result of the current conditions. I want you to know that we have requested, and have been approved for, additional resources.

These are extraordinary times requiring all of us to remain strong and focused on our mission. Please continue to wear your surgical masks and other required PPE at all times. This is not something we can afford to relax on at this time. Also, please continue to ensure you maintain six feet social distancing at all times, avoid congregating at lunch times or on breaks. These measures are not punitive – they are precautionary and aimed at keeping all of us healthy and well.

Words cannot capture the appreciation and deep respect I have for all of you who as we process through the next phase of this pandemic.