



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**AIRWAY HEIGHTS CORRECTIONS CENTER**  
P.O. Box 1899, Airway Heights, WA 99001

Date: December 12, 2020  
To: All Incarcerated Individuals  
From: James Key, Superintendent  
Subject: AHCC MSU Incarcerated Individual COVID-19 Testing & Isolation Protocol Information

Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC) will begin COVID-19 testing of the MSU incarcerated population on Sunday, December 13, 2020. The decision to test the incarcerated population at MSU is based on the recent increase in positive cases at the facility and will help efforts to prevent ongoing transmission.

The test involves collecting a nasal specimen to detect active infection. It is not an antibody test and does not reflect their possible immune status from a previous infection. A swab will be inserted into the nose and rotated. It is not the more invasive nasopharyngeal swab and the incarcerated individuals will be asked to collect the specimen themselves.

Test results are expected back in three (3) to five (5) days and individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be notified. Depending on test results, incarcerated individuals may be moved to a different housing assignment within the institution based on established protocols. Individuals who test positive will be housed together. Individuals who test negative will be tested a second time and those that receive a double negative result will be housed together.

Individuals who refuse testing, will be treated as if they are positive and will be placed in a separate medical isolation area to prevent potential spread.

Individuals outside of their cubicle/cell area will practice social distancing while wearing their face coverings. As an additional safety measure, all staff at AHCC are required to wear surgical masks.

When an individual is positive for COVID-19 and is assigned a cellmate who is also positive, their isolation date does not restart. Movement and housing of individuals based on their COVID-19 status is critical to managing the current outbreak situation.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to work through these challenging times together.