



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

December 14, 2020

TO: Work Release Staff
Graduated Reentry Staff
Reentry Navigators
CPA/FOSA Staff
EOC COVID Quality Assurance Review Team - Work Release Staff

FROM: Danielle Armbruster, Assistant Secretary, Reentry Division *Danielle Armbruster*

SUBJECT: Staff COVID-19 Testing

The Work Release/Reentry Division is implementing COVID-19 staff serial testing at all facilities in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Agency leadership has determined that any staff coming in contact with resident populations must be tested on a weekly basis. Mandatory COVID-19 testing will be implemented at each facility the week of December 21, 2020.

Department of Health employees will provide training to our employees similar to the way they have assisted in testing efforts in the surrounding communities and within our prison facilities. This training for facility testers has been scheduled.

The test involves the employee self-collecting a nasal specimen to detect active infection. It is not an antibody test and does not reflect your possible immune status from a previous infection. It is not the more invasive nasopharyngeal swab. You will be asked to collect the specimen yourself by inserting the swab while rotating the cotton onto the inner superficial surface of each nostril.

Serial testing will occur every week on an assigned day. There will be scheduled make-up days if you are not at work on your facility test day. All initial, serial testing, and make-up testing will be self-collected.

Test results are expected back in three to five days. Those staff who test positive will be contacted by Occupational Nurse Consultants (ONCs) from the Department's Occupational Health and Wellness Unit. The ONCs will follow the published [COVID-19 Mapping for Staff and Incarcerated Individuals](#). Staff members who have previously tested positive and completed their isolation requirements will be required to provide a copy of your lab results to human resources and will be exempt from initial and serial testing.

A toll-free line has been established for staff to utilize if they have not been contacted five days after their testing date. This toll free line is intended to be used by staff to confirm if they have negative results. The number is 1-800-994-0114, and again, this is only to confirm a negative test result or to ask a general HR related questions.

If you refuse testing, you will be treated as if you are refusing to report to work. You will not be allowed in the workplace until you decide to report for duty and be tested. You will need to utilize your own leave during that time. It is a requirement of the Work Release Supervisor and Incident Commander to contact and notify WFSE of the refusal of any represented staff member.

We know this is a difficult time for everyone, especially as you await test results and we understand the added stress and anxiety it brings. Remember to social distance, wash hands or use sanitizer frequently, wear a face covering at all times and use other appropriate PPE per the [WA STATE DOC COVID-19 PPE Matrix](#) as these are the best prevention measures.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping yourself and those we serve safe and healthy. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to work through these challenging times together.

cc: Prisons/Health Services Unified Command
Reentry/CCD Unified Command
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