




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

December 16, 2020

TO: Interested Parties

FROM:  Dan Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Health Services

 Frank Longano, Deputy Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The Washington Department of Corrections is in ongoing communication with the Washington Department of Health regarding distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Although the department does not yet know when it will receive the first doses, it is preparing for that to occur soon. Once received by Corrections, the COVID-19 vaccination will be offered and administered by the Department in accordance with the approved criteria outlined by the Department of Health.

The Department of Corrections has had a survey team out at several facilities, talking with incarcerated individuals about their current state of readiness to accept a vaccine. So far, the survey team has been to Cedar Creek Corrections Center, Washington Corrections Center for Women and the Special Offender Unit at Monroe Correctional Complex.

A similar survey has been provided to department staff. These surveys are intended to begin determining their current state of readiness to accept a COVID-19 vaccine. The feedback will help inform the Department's health services as to the best approach and relieve concerns about receiving the vaccine, before the Department's supply arrives.

The Department will provide more information when it has more details on vaccine availability. Additional information on the COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov) website. Please know the health and safety of those in our custody and our staff are our priority and we continue working toward readiness to receive and administer as many vaccine doses possible for both incarcerated individuals and staff members.