



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
MONROE CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX
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January 7, 2021

TO: All Monroe Correctional Complex Staff

FROM: John Padilla, Incident Commander

SUBJECT: MCC COVID-19 Update

The Washington State Reformatory Unit (WSRU) Gym is being converted into an alternate housing area for asymptomatic COVID-19 positive patients on medical isolation and is expected to be operational this week. The additional medical isolation beds are necessary to accommodate the increase in positive COVID-19 cases, ensure continuity of care during the medical isolation period, and prevent further outbreak. The Intensive Management Unit (IMU) will continue to house symptomatic COVID-19 positive patients. Medical isolation beds were increased in the IMU by moving individuals on intake separation to WSRU Block 3/Old Segregation. Twin Rivers Unit (TRU) E unit is currently operational as an alternate housing area for segregation. Asymptomatic close contacts are placed on quarantine status in their current assigned housing.

Staff escorting and/or transporting COVID-19 positive patients must continue to adhere to the [PPE Matrix](#) and [Transport Vehicle Sanitation Expectations](#) to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. Intensive cleaning protocols focusing on sanitizing high touch surfaces continues throughout all of MCC. As a reminder, information on protocols for quarantine, medical isolation, and intake separation, including timeframes, can be found in the [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guidelines](#).

On January 5, 2021, Prisons/Health Services Unified Command Incident Commanders provided additional information to all prisons staff regarding [transfers from WCC](#). Specifically, individuals transferring from WCC will be either COVID-19 recovered or have tested negative at least twice and have remained without any COVID-related symptoms prior to transfer.

- COVID-19 Recovered individuals can be housed in any custody appropriate housing and are not a risk to transmit the virus.
- COVID-19 Negative individuals will be placed on intake separation upon arrival.

WSRU Gym

- Donning and doffing stations have been setup directly outside the area requiring PPE.
- Restroom/shower combo trailers are being installed next to the gym.
- The living area will be equipped with televisions, telephones, and recreational activities.
- Patients will be allowed to bring a limited amount of personal property, including commissary, hygiene, on-person medications, publications, legal materials, and religious items.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”

The advanced contingency planning team that launched on February 28, 2020 and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Headquarters continue to support agency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff at MCC have been instrumental in constructing and implementing contingency plans, continuously making improvements to facility operations as we adjust to new information. Although change is sometimes difficult, in these circumstances, it necessary.

There is positive information about the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) and an estimated timeline of [Washington's COVID-19 Vaccine Phases](#). Please take the time to learn about the [vaccine](#) and read through department communications on [COVID-19](#) related topics.

While MCC is on outbreak status, the Incident Command Post (ICP) will be operational seven (7) days a week, Sunday – Saturday, 0800 – 1630 hours to provide additional support.

Thank you all again for your continued commitment to public safety, your health, and the health of those around you.