



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

January 22, 2021

TO: All AHCC Incarcerated Individuals

From: James Key, Superintendent

Subject: COVID-19 Facility Progress Update

This past week has been a busy one for us with our COVID-19 response and has resulted in some positive steps forward in our progress to normalized operations. We have been able to clear specific units for access to outside movement with our Grab'n Go mainline and starting next week, outside yard. I know that this has been a long time coming and it will be good to see individuals getting outside. As we continue to work on consolidating our different medical isolation and quarantine areas we also hope to be able to clear more areas so more individuals can participate in these outside unit movements.

We have sent out a number of recent memos about the need for compliance with social distancing guidelines and protocols. I need to emphasize that these are still mandatory expectations and not optional. Many of you would agree on the fact that the past two months have been very difficult for all of us and by maintaining compliance with these protocols we can mitigate the risk of further COVID-19 outbreaks. This means that we continue to be diligent in how we wear our face masks, adhering to PPE protocols, maintaining a six (6) foot social distancing, and sanitizing all areas of the facility. We also need to be consistent in how we report medical issues or symptoms related to COVID-19, the quicker we respond and isolate incidents of COVID-19 illness, the more effective our response can be in containing it. These expectations apply to both staff and our incarcerated population because we all have an impact on each other when there are failures to meet these standards.

It is my hope that as we come to the end of our second month of dealing with the AHCC COVID-19 Outbreak that we will continue to see progress towards getting back to a new set of operations. We will continue to work with our Health Services partners to manage this incident and we will continue to get our alternative housing areas returned to programming areas. As these areas begin the process of returning back to being program areas, we will start to have conversations with program providers about target dates for the start-up of regular programming and work opportunities beyond what we currently have in place. I am very proud of the work we have done and the progress that we have made this past week and I am looking forward to more positive accomplishments in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you