



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

January 29, 2021

To: All Staff

From: James Key, Superintendent

Subject: COVID-19 Compliance Expectations

This week we resumed outside recreation for all main institution areas that are currently designated as COVID-19 cleared. It has been a long road to get to this point in our outbreak response and one that should be celebrated. As we continue to move forward with our response we anticipate a more routine operational standard for how we perform work at AHCC. One thing that I want to stress is that even though we are starting to see some return to routine operations, our stance should not be compromised on required COVID-19 protocols and standards. We continue to see areas for improvement with **social distancing of six feet or more, mandatory surgical mask wearing, and regular cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting** in all areas of the facility. Although we do have some areas that have done well, we do not have 100% compliance and this concerns me.

As I have previously stated in other messages, this is not acceptable. In order for us to continue to move forward I need to see compliance from staff and our incarcerated population in these areas or we will not be able to continue resuming these routine operations. If we continue to see non-compliance in these areas we will have to also take a stronger stance on how to deal with non-compliance concerns. My hope is that we can all work together and get to a point of 100% compliance, in order to avoid another outbreak.

Unfortunately, we are in an area where the risk of another outbreak is very high due to the current statistics in Spokane County. To date, Spokane County has a total of 33,975 cases of COVID-19. As of today, there were 503 new cases. Hospitalizations are up and Spokane County has already had 498 deaths as a result of COVID-19. These are sobering numbers which highlight the importance of us being committed every day to following our three principle standards around COVID-19 response, as I have highlighted above.

I am proud of our progress through this outbreak and hope that we can work on firming up our commitment to these principles so that we do not have to turn around again and go through another outbreak at AHCC. This has been a frustrating, exhausting and difficult time for all of us. My hope is that we can move past this and get to a better place in the near future. Thank you.