



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

February 5, 2021

TO: All AHCC Incarcerated Individuals

From: James Key, Superintendent

Subject: AHCC COVID-19 Update

This past week we completed lot of moves due to testing results and the consolidation of quarantine areas. With these moves we will have emptied out the last of our alternate housing areas (gym) and placed everyone back into regular living units. At this point in time N-Unit A-side has been designated as our primary location for housing quarantined individuals. K-Unit continues to be designated for medical isolation, but we are also making progress towards post-isolation clearing many of the individuals who are housed there. We are very hopeful that these last few moves that we have made will put us in a position to move forward towards regular call-outs and cohorted movements.

Next week we will be meeting with various program providers to talk about how cohorting can be implemented to provide for safer work and program areas. The way we do movements to these areas and for other services might look a little different than how we have done this in the past. It will not be much different than what you are currently experiencing when you go to mainline or yard. We have learned a great deal from our experiences with our outbreak here at AHCC and from other institutions who have had outbreaks. Some of these lessons learned involve the importance of more aggressive cohorting schedules and also the commitment from both staff and our incarcerated population to follow the COVID-19 protocols and guidelines.

As we move forward I hope to continue to bring you good news in regards to our progress around programming and other opportunities that will give us some sense of normalcy in our operations. This past week Correctional Industries started providing regular menu meals. We have also had outside yard going for the past few weeks and are looking forward to having the gym opened up for in-cell hobby craft processing and limited recreation in the next few weeks. These are all milestones for us in our COVID-19 outbreak response and should be celebrated. As much as I would like to be able to put much of this behind us, we cannot. The reality is that we cannot let our guard down in our efforts to be prepared for the eventuality of being impacted again by COVID-19. It has unfortunately become a new normal for us and we have to make the necessary adjustments to be successful now and in the future.

Thank you