



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

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TO: All AHCC Staff
From: James Key, Superintendent
Subject: AHCC COVID-19 Facility 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. These moves also allow us to designate L, M, N-B-side, R and T-Units as cleared units who can have upper/lower cohorting access to the dayrooms, outside yard and Grab'n'Go mainline. This helps our unit staff in reducing tensions in the units and getting individuals out of the unit for more productive activities.

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. In those cases and areas in which we do have call-outs for programs and work we will be moving towards unit movements instead of all-calls for programs or service areas. Health Services is currently working on a cohorting call-out process so that one unit at a time would access their services. We hope to have this process finalized sometime next week. We have learned a great deal from our experiences with the outbreak here at AHCC and from other institutions who have had outbreaks. Some of the 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. Our commitment to making sure that we are doing our best every day needs to be a priority for each of you.

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 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. I can't be more proud of all the efforts that each and every one of you have had during our COVID-19 outbreak response. It has been a long almost three (3) months and to be in a position that we are in right now is all a result of the hard work and dedication that each of you have had. The long hours, the time away from your families, the sacrifices that you have made for each other just shows what caliber of staff we have here at AHCC. Thank you for your dedication to our success and your commitment to each other.

Thank you