



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

February 12, 2021

TO: AHCC Staff  
From: James Key, Superintendent  
Subject: AHCC COVID-19 Update

This week we moved forward with the COVID-19 medical clearance of all living units with the exception of N-Unit A-side. This is a great accomplishment and has allowed us to have K-Unit integrated into our current movement schedules. In addition to these changes, you will see a recreation schedule posted with this memo, which will include a schedule for gym access. The outside recreation schedule will take effect immediately, but the gym schedule will not go into effect until February 22, 2021 due to the gym area being used next week to help process In-Cell Hobby items. Next week, Recreation Staff will be putting individuals on call-out so they can come to the gym area to have their completed hobby items sent out. We recognize that there is a great need for this to take place and we want to give every individual a fair chance to get caught up on sending these items out of the facility. Individuals will be on call-out per their unit and will not be mixing with other units. Once this process is completed, the gym will be open per the schedule and will have a capacity limit of 25 individuals per session.

Even with our current successes we are still on restricted movement status and are still considered an outbreak facility. We will remain in this status until such time as all of our current quarantine cases are resolved. As we move forward though, you will continue to see some changes in how we operate as a facility. Some of these changes will include more active screening stations within the facility, specifically in the Food Factory, Health Services and potentially other areas such as Food Services. We are also preparing for the resumption of programming once our restricted movement has been lifted. Our partners in the Education Department have been working on putting together the Education classrooms and have initiated education packets that will be delivered to the units for now, in preparation for Education resuming. As we continue to move forward in our efforts to facilitate programming we will also have to confront the fact that we will have to do things differently in order to provide a safer program area. As we make these changes, we will message what they are and how they will be implemented.

The AHCC Minimum Security Unit (MSU) has had their restricted movement lifted for quite some time and as a result they are a bit ahead on their movement towards regular programming. They will be starting Education classes again, but will be doing them with a unit cohort schedule. In addition to this, we will also be moving forward with off-site DNR Crews, the opening up of the Gym area and other programming opportunities in the near future. The MSU Recreation Department will also start the process of calling out individuals to the MSU Property Room to also process completed In-Cell Hobby/Curio items. The process will be the same as the Main Facility in the sense that individuals will be called out per their unit.

I want to thank my staff and all of the incarcerated individuals who have stepped-up and are following the PPE requirements for wearing surgical masks appropriately, social distancing and increasing the

effectiveness of our cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting efforts. We must continue this combined effort and be committed to and be accountable for following COVID-19 protocols. It is this combined effort that will help us to be successful in combating COVID-19 and preventing a repeated incident such as what we have just experienced. This has been such a long journey and we are coming up on our one year anniversary of COVID-19 response. It is amazing that this is still something that we are still trying to manage and we are still learning new ways to respond every day. Thank you all for your commitment to moving forward in these efforts and being patient with all of the changes that we have had to make and will continue to make as we move forward.

Thank you