



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

April 26, 2021

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM: 
Julie Martin, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Continued Corrections' COVID-19 Protocols & Teleworking

On March 12, 2021, Governor Inslee sent a message continuing to encourage teleworking for all eligible state employees.

While our agency is hard at work on its Distributed Workforce Project, it is important to know that this work is separate from the requirements we are all following due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Department employees who have been teleworking due to the pandemic should continue to do so until further direction is received regarding the Governor's direction to telework due to COVID-19. While you may currently be establishing what your telework/in office schedules will be after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, these in-office schedules will not be effective until the direction to telework due to COVID-19 is lifted.

Please note that, [mandatory](#) wearing of surgical masks for all departmental staff, contract staff, persons entering all department locations, and all residents and incarcerated individuals will remain in effect until further notice. This applies to all people in our facilities, **regardless of vaccination or COVID-19 recovered status.**

We need to continue following all existing COVID-19 related protocols *even after being fully vaccinated* because we do not yet know whether or not the vaccine prevents you from acquiring COVID-19 and potentially spreading it to others. We do know that the vaccine will protect you from serious illness or worse but we can't definitively state that it will prevent spread. Further mitigation efforts will also continue, to include:

- Practicing social distancing and frequent hand hygiene,
- Conducting staff serial testing,
- Performing active screening,
- Isolating (mapping out) symptomatic and/or individuals who test positive for COVID-19,
- Following quarantine and testing [guidelines](#) for all individuals identified as close contact, and
- Cohorting movements of the incarcerated population as possible.

Working together to ensure a healthy and safe environment remains our priority. You are encouraged to receive the vaccine when eligible and as supply allows. Vaccinations are part of the solution and will be considered in any changes to agency COVID-19 protocols and guidelines. The agency and our medical team remain committed to a return to normal operations while protecting the health and safety of our staff, and resident and incarcerated populations. Future changes to

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protocols, including any reduction of requirements, will be shared as the agency moves forward in our response.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the health and safety of your co-workers and everyone in our facilities. Please remember to continue to socially distance, mask up, wash your hands and use sanitizer, get vaccinated when available, and stay home if sick.