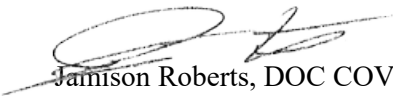




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

April 27, 2021

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM:  Jamison Roberts, DOC COVID-19 EOC Manager

SUBJECT: Expanded Use of Rapid Antigen Testing & Updates to Serial Testing

The Department of Corrections remains committed to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and recognizes the need to continually evaluate and update our practices. Therefore, effective **May 1, 2021**, additional use of Rapid Antigen Testing has been approved for use in the following circumstances:

- Any staff/contractors arriving to a facility or site that is conducting serial testing whose work schedules are outside of the normal staff Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing dates/times at their site and they are not able to participate in staff serial testing. *(For example, an On-call staff who works 2 or 3 times a month on graveyard or weekends when PCR testing is not conducted)*

Also effective **May 1, 2021**, staff who were previously positive for COVID-19 and exempt from serial testing will resume serial PCR testing weekly after 90 days. While uncommon, repeat of COVID-19 infection is possible. The only exemptions to this will be the following:

- 1) Those who have tested positive less than 90 days ago, and
- 2) Those who have tested positive *and* have completed vaccination at least 14 days prior (“completed vaccination” includes 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna, or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson).

The Occupational Health & Wellness Unit is compiling the individuals that will resume serial PCR testing and will provide those names to each Facility/Work Release Testing Branch Director.

Please be aware, if you were previously positive/confirmed COVID-19 and have since received the full vaccination outside of the agency, you will need to provide a copy reflecting receipt of your vaccination to the local HR office for proof of exemption as we don't have those records.

As a reminder, staff/contractors are currently required to test once every seven (7) days, if present at the facility/site. Additionally, staff/contractors do not need to test if they meet the above exemption criteria.

This additional approval for Rapid Antigen testing is not to be used for staff/contractors who routinely participate in PCR testing at their site and may have missed their testing days due to leave. Rather those individuals are to resume serial PCR testing on the next day testing is available.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”

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This process may require additional staff to facilitate Rapid Antigen testing needs at odd hours. Therefore, if your site is in need of additional staff training, please contact the DOC COVID-19 Staff Testing Group Supervisor Jeremy Turner via email at jjturner@doc1.wa.gov to schedule training.

Thank you for your continued dedication to keeping everyone safe. It is important that we continue to socially distance, mask up, maintain hand hygiene, get vaccinated when available, and stay home if sick, and we encourage you to follow these practices while you're away from work.