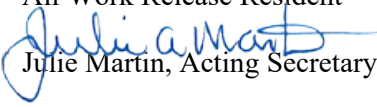




STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
P.O. Box 41101 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1101

May 14, 2021

**TO:** All Incarcerated Individuals  
All Work Release Resident

**FROM:**   
Julie Martin, Acting Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Continue Following Required COVID-19 Safety Practices

Throughout the pandemic many communications have been provided regarding expectations and directives regarding required protocols on proper wearing of masks, staying six feet from others and practicing hand hygiene. The transmission of COVID-19 continues to be a safety risk for all. Educational posters regarding mask wear, social distancing and hand hygiene have been provided along with numerous resources.

COVID-19 cases in our communities continue to ebb and flow with new variants of this disease presenting further risks. Congregate living conditions such as jails, prisons, work releases and any other area in which people are in close quarters are the most difficult to manage from an infectious disease prevention perspective.

The most recent news from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) does not impact congregate settings such as jails and prisons. At this time, all staff in all work areas, incarcerated individuals and work release residents are all expected to continue to follow the workplace guidance regardless of relaxed restrictions elsewhere. We will continue to work with the Washington State Department of Health and Corrections' clinical team to determine when Corrections' restrictions might be eased.

For those who continue to uphold the expectations, thank you. Please continue to socially distance, wear your surgical mask and wash your hands regularly.

JM:apm

cc: Robert Herzog, Assistant Secretary, Prisons Division  
Daniel Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Health Services Division  
Michael Obenland, Prisons Deputy Director, Command A  
Jeneva Cotton, Prisons Deputy Director, Command B  
Tomas Fithian, Prisons Deputy Director, Command C  
Scott Russell, Health Services Deputy Director  
All Superintendents