



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

May 20, 2021

TO: All AHCC Incarcerated Individuals

FROM: James Key, Superintendent

SUBJECT: AHCC Limited Area Outbreak T-Unit

On May 5, 2021, Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC) confirmed that two (2) incarcerated individuals, housed in T Unit, had tested positive for COVID-19. In a consultation with Headquarters Clinical Leadership and Prisons Operations Leadership, the determination was made that T Unit at AHCC, the only affected area, would be placed on a Limited Area Outbreak.

This past week A-side of T Unit was taken off quarantine status. Due to previous testing results for T-Unit B-side they will remain on quarantine status until we receive their most recent test results, which should be soon.

Recently, per department COVID-19 protocols, and due to an abundance of caution, we have also placed E-Tier in Unit C-4 at the Minimum-Security Unit (MSU) on quarantine status. These steps are being taken to ensure that we have a responsible and immediate response to any potential positive cases that might have occurred in this area. We have started testing identified individuals in E-Tier and will be monitoring and completing medical assessments on all individuals in E-Tier. We have also published a dayroom access schedule for those individuals who are on quarantine in E-Tier, which will ensure continued access to the phones, J-Pay and dayrooms twice a day.

This week we also had our monthly Quality Assurance (QA) assessment for our COVID-19 response. We continue to show improvements in the areas associated with these audits and continue to move forward towards better results in other areas. As a reminder, social distancing during movements and face mask discipline are still mandatory and part of our continuing improvement areas.

The Limited Area Outbreak in T-Unit and the most recent quarantine of E-Tier in Unit C-4 are reminders to each of us about the continuing challenges and dangers that we still face in our response to COVID-19. I appreciate the long-standing fight to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the impact it has on each of us on a daily basis. As we continue to move forward, we are seeing changes that bring us hope, such as the resumption of in-person visiting, the expansion of our recreation activities to include increased capacity and the re-opening of our weight decks. These are all good things and helps us move forward in a positive direction.

As always, thank you for your commitment to each other's safety and to our successes in fighting COVID-19.