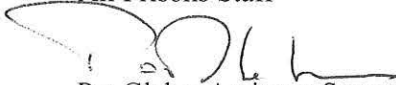




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

July 15, 2021

TO: All Prisons Staff

FROM: Pat Glebe, Assistant Secretary, Prisons

SUBJECT: Transfer Separation Updates

Effective July 12, 2021, internal transfers requiring 10 days of separation between incarcerated individuals being moved from one Department of Corrections facility to another, will stop except in cases of an emergency.

To balance the risk of COVID-19 transmission, individuals pre-scheduled for transport will submit to a COVID-19 PCR test at the sending facility 72 hours before transport and then submit to a Rapid Antigen Test upon arrival of the receiving facility. To accommodate testing that would fall on a Saturday, the COVID-19 PCR testing can be done up to 96 hours prior to transfer. To accommodate testing that would fall on a Sunday or a 2-day weekend, and a PCR test prior to transfer is not possible, then a Rapid Antigen Test can be done 2 days prior to transfer, but this should be the exception not the rule.

If COVID-19 was diagnosed within the last 90 days, then transfer separation is not necessary, if COVID-19 was diagnosed 90-180 days ago, then it should be a Rapid Antigen Test and not a PCR test. Unless positive, no medical isolation or transfer separation is needed. In this context, an emergency transport includes medical or mental health transfers to an Inpatient Unit (IPU) or Closed Observation Unit (COA), behavioral transports to Intensive Management Units (IMU), or rare cases of larger transports due to disturbances at IMUs. For those cases in which an emergency transfer occurred, the individual will then need to complete the 10-day transfer separation in IPU, COA or IMU.

For incarcerated individual transports that occurred prior to or on July 12, 2021, those individuals will need to finish the 10-day transfer separation period ending on July 22, 2021. For individuals transported on July 13, 2021 and after, the new testing process will commence. Incarcerated Individuals who are vaccinated do not need to submit to testing.

Spaces identified as alternate living as a part of Density Reduction, such as program areas or extended family visit areas, will need to be returned to their original purpose no later than July 29, 2021. This includes sanitation and cleaning and removal of items used to house incarcerated individuals in those spaces. Capacity reductions at minimum facilities will be lifted effective July 23, 2021. Facilities will continue to use COVID-19 mitigation strategies/options to reduce the potential for transmission of COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to individuals on bunk bed style bedding opposite from each other, wearing a surgical mask, increased high touch surface cleaning, hand hygiene and vaccine availability.