



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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July 22, 2021

TO: All DOC Staff
FROM: Cheryl Strange, Secretary 
SUBJECT: DOC resumes contact visitation and Extended Family Visiting

On July 15, 2021, I announced that the [Safe Start Corrections Plan](#) will go into effect on August 15, 2021. In that announcement I also shared the great news that on August 15, 2021 contact visitation in prisons will resume and the age restriction for visitors will be eliminated. Up to three (3) approved visitors may visit an individual at one time.

The department will extend the duration for each prison visit session from one (1) hour to three (3) hours and expand visiting cohorts at most facilities. Visitors who scheduled one (1) hour visits prior to the [July 15, 2021 announcement](#) will be contacted directly to transition to the three (3) hour visit by the facility scheduler.

Visitors must provide proof of vaccination or will be required to take a rapid antigen test on the date of the contact visit and comply with COVID-19 precautions. The rapid antigen testing requirement applies to all unvaccinated visitors, including children of all ages. All visitors and incarcerated individuals are required to wear a DOC provided mask at all times, regardless of vaccination status. Additional details and specific guidance for visitation rules as well as COVID-19 precautions [can be found here](#).

I am excited to share that Extended Family Visit (EFV) scheduling will resume September 1, 2021. Scheduling preference may be given to those who had visits scheduled prior to the suspension of EFVs in 2020 due to COVID-19. Additional details and specific guidance for EFV visitation rules and COVID-19 precautions [can be found here](#).

Please [check the visiting webpage](#) regularly for updates.

The pandemic has been hard on everyone. We all understand how important visitation is and the role it plays in the health and wellbeing of those in our care and custody. The health and safety of our staff, incarcerated individuals and their families continues to be our priority, and with these added protections I am glad that we are able to move forward and ensure those important connections and moments continue.

Thank you for your continued hard work, you are appreciated. And if you haven't already, I encourage you to talk with your health care provider about receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. We also continue to make the vaccine available through DOC, contact your local health services for more information.

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"