



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**Reentry Division – Work Release**  
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

October 26, 2021

**TO:** All Work Release Staff  
All Work Release Residents

**FROM:** David Ganas, Work Release/Reentry Senior Administrator

**SUBJECT** Return of in facility visitation and continued suspension of social outings

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, DOC work release facilities, as part of the DOC Safe Start Plan, suspended in facility visitation and social outings. The significant increase in COVID-19 cases in our communities and concern for your health and safety, work release facilities paused visits and social outings.

Over the course of the past month, we have seen community cases decrease across the state, and within our work release facilities. Recognizing this and the importance of visitation for residents and their families to ensure a successful reentry, **effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, in facility visitation will resume in a limited capacity.**

- A resident can sign up, in advance, for one visit session at a time. The visit may last up to 1 hour and occur in a designated area within the work release. The prescheduled times will be posted at the facility.
  - 1) Visitors will need to arrive 20 minutes prior to scheduled visit to allow for time for Rapid Antigen Testing. Failure to arrive early will not extend scheduled visit time.
  - 2) Hand washing/sanitizing should be done prior to entering and leaving the visit room for ALL visitors and residents.
  - 3) ALL visitors, regardless of vaccination status are required to complete a Rapid Antigen Test prior to the visit regardless of age.
  - 4) ALL visitors and residents are required to wear a DOC approved surgical mask throughout the visit regardless of vaccine status. One will be provided, at no expense, upon entry.
    - a. The exception to the rule is children 2 years old and younger who are not recommended to mask.
  - 5) The vaccine status of the resident being visited does not impact the ability to have a visit and the vaccine status of the visitor will not impact the visit.
  - 6) A brief hug per usual protocols is fine; maintaining social distance, whenever possible is required.

We will continue to evaluate the situation as the pandemic evolves, and with the consultation of our medical teams, continue to assess for opportunities to safely return to opening up the important opportunities that assist our residents in preparing for successful reentry to the communities.

***“Working Together for SAFER Communities”***

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Social outings will continue to be suspended.

Thank you for your patience, and adaptability through these uncertain and difficult times, we hope to get through this period of the pandemic as safely as possible and be able to return to more normal operations when this surge in COVID-19 cases decreases further.