



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

December 27, 2021

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM:  Jamison Roberts, EOC Manager

SUBJECT: Return to masking for all – Safe Start changes on pause

Due to the increasing concerns regarding the COVID-19 Omicron variant's rapid rate of transmission, we are implementing the following, effective immediately:

- The Department will pause on moving forward with Safe Start. The Department will maintain its current mitigation strategies and COVID-19 guidance until further direction is received from the Office of Financial Management, expected in early January 2022.
- All staff, regardless of where you are working are required to wear a surgical mask, unless in your office alone, or for brief periods when eating or drinking.

We expect to receive updated guidance in early January and at that time will provide an update on any other changes or impacts that may occur.

I appreciate that this is a challenging time and ask that you all continue to follow our non-pharmaceutical methods of infection control by practicing in good hand hygiene, wearing your masks, socially distancing and getting your booster shot.