



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

January 3, 2022

**TO: All WSP Staff, All WSP Incarcerated Individuals**

**FROM: Steve Barker, Associate Superintendent**

**SUBJECT:** Washington State Penitentiary- West Complex Kitchen- Limited Area Outbreak, South Complex Shift and South Complex Services Area- Limited Area Cluster

On December 31, 2021, the Washington State Penitentiary confirmed that one incarcerated individual, and two staff members working in the West Complex Kitchen had tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days. Additionally, two staff members from the South Complex Shift Office area have tested positive for COVID-19.

On December 31, 2021, the Department announced an update to the COVID-19 protocols and shared the definition of a Limited Area Cluster. Facilities that experience a Limited Area Cluster have two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in staff or volunteers occurring within 14 days who work in the same living unit or work area.

In consultation with Headquarters Clinical Leadership and Prisons Operations Leadership, the determination was made that South Complex Shift, South Complex Service area for incarcerated individuals and the West Complex Kitchen at WSP are affected areas experiencing a Limited Area Cluster, and the West Complex Kitchen is also considered a Limited Area Outbreak location.

While staff members from these areas will be required to test twice weekly, the rest of the facility will continue normal operations.

When testing results are received, a status update will be provided with further details.

It is imperative to make sure you continue to wear your routine mask and as appropriate additional [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#). Wearing your masks at all times is for your safety, as well as that of your family and friends. Please encourage and model the same behavior that we expect from our incarcerated population.

We all must also continue to follow the other [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) recommendations to decrease the spread of COVID-19, including maintaining six (6) foot social distancing, washing your hands, and keeping areas of the institution sanitized.

Corrections is committed to everyone's safety. We will continue to communicate with you as we progress through this pandemic.

***"Working Together for SAFER Communities"***