

Washington State Penitentiary

Superintendent's Office

DATE: January 06, 2022
TO: All WSP Incarcerated Individuals
FROM: Assoc. Supt. Steve Barker, Incident Commander
SUBJECT: WSP Limited Area Outbreak & Cluster Status



As you may be aware, Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) has experienced an increase in positive COVID-19 tests among staff over the last three weeks. With the high number of staff testing positive, WSP has been declared as in what is known as “Cluster Status” by DOC Health Professionals. The designation of “Cluster Status” requires the facility to test the entire Incarcerated Population for COVID-19 within 72-hours of the “Cluster” designation. As a part of the protocol, and because the facility continues to experience an increase in staff positives, we are required to test the entire incarcerated population. Testing will begin tomorrow, January 7, 2022.

In addition to the Facility Cluster Status, the West Complex Kitchen is in a Limited Area Outbreak Status, due to positive test results among staff and one (1) incarcerated individual in that area. WSP reports two (2) positive results from incarcerated individuals from Intake Separation.

Please know that the testing is being conducted to keep you safe and to ensure that we continue to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. Due to the facility's Cluster Status, visiting is cancelled for all living units.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this time. We continue to follow Centers for Disease Control and Washington State Department of Health guidance and your health and safety are our priority.