



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
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January 11, 2022

**TO:** All Prisons Staff

**FROM:** Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary

**SUBJECT:** DOC Prisons Temporarily Suspends Visitation

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) continues to see the significant impacts of the Omicron COVID-19 variant that are mirrored across the state. The health and safety of our staff, those in our care and custody and the public remain our highest priority during these challenging times.

Because DOC continues to see an increase in COVID-19 cases in both incarcerated individuals and staff, all DOC prison visitation will be temporarily suspended, effective January 12, 2022. We do not take this step lightly; we know that visitation is an essential part of reentry and only take this step out of a necessity to keep you safe.

Our clinical team will continue to monitor COVID-19 data, and provide recommendations based on the guidance of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH). This pause in visitation will be reevaluated by February 3, 2022 at the same time that the pause on Extended Family Visits (EFV) are reevaluated. EFVs were temporarily suspended effective January 4, 2022.

For more information on DOC's response to COVID-19, we encourage you to visit the department's COVID-19 webpage, where you can view the Significant Events Timeline, COVID-19 data, and Frequently Asked Questions. Additionally, you can subscribe to the COVID-19 bulletin to receive regular updates to your email account.