



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AIRWAY HEIGHTS CORRECTIONS CENTER
P.O. Box 1899, Airway Heights, WA 99001

January 12, 2022

To: AHCC Incarcerated Individuals

From: James Key, Superintendent

Subject: **COVID-19 Weekly Update**

On January 5, 2022, Airway Heights Correction Center (AHCC) confirmed that two staff working in the CI A-1 Warehouse and two staff in C1 Building, had tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days. As a result of these positive test results, and per Department protocol, CI A-1 Warehouse and C1 Building are experiencing a Limited Area Cluster.

On January 8, 2022, Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC) confirmed that one (1) staff member and one (1) incarcerated individual in T unit tested positive for COVID-19. As a result of these positive test results, and per Department protocol, T unit is considered to be on Limited Area Outbreak status.

On January 12, 2022, Airway Heights Corrections Center, confirmed that more than 20 staff, working in both the Main institution and Minimum Security Unit (MSU), had tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days.

On May 5, 2021, the Department announced an update to the COVID-19 protocols and shared the definition of a Facility Wide Cluster. Facilities that experience a Facility Wide Cluster have:

- 20 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a main facility or 6 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a camp (free-standing or co-located minimum security unit) within 14 days among staff and/or volunteers across a facility regardless of their position or post

In a consultation with Headquarters Clinical Leadership and Prisons Operations Leadership, the determination was made that Airway Heights Corrections Center in both the Main institution and MSU, is experiencing a Facility Wide Cluster.

- Health Services will begin testing the incarcerated population at the Main and MSU.

Only authorized staff should be in T Unit during this time. It is imperative that everyone continue to wear a surgical mask, or appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and practice social distancing at all times and hold the incarcerated responsible to meet these standards. Similarly, it is vital that we continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, ensuring to follow the six (6) foot social distancing rule, washing your hands, and keeping areas of the institution sanitized.

Please continue to wear your issued surgical masks, follow PPE protocols, and socially distance. These continued preventative measures will help us limit the outbreak effect on the facility and hopefully assist in resolving this as quickly as possible.