



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Reentry Division – Work Release
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

January 14, 2022

TO: All Work Release Staff
All Work Release Residents

FROM: David Ganas, Work Release Administrator, Reentry Division

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Protocol Changes for Work Release Facilities

Work Release Facilities are currently mirroring the same impacts felt in communities from the latest surge of COVID-19. The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) in consultation with the Washington State Department of Health is using the most updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to regularly make changes in our COVID-19 protocols to continue mitigating the transmission of COVID-19. The guidance for congregate living facilities, such as Work Release Facilities, is different than the CDC guidance for the general public.

Based on the new guidance for congregate living facilities, the following changes will take effect on January 17, 2022 to ensure the ongoing safety of individuals, staff, and the community:

- During an outbreak, individuals are authorized to leave the facility for employment, education, and treatment only if they rapid test negative at least three times a week AND are fully vaccinated, which the CDC now defines as 14 days after receiving a COVID-19 booster vaccine, or after completing the primary vaccine series if it is too soon to get the booster.
 - Individuals are eligible for a booster TWO months after the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) vaccine.
 - Individuals are eligible for a booster FIVE months after receiving the second Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.
 - If you are not yet fully vaccinated and are interested in getting the COVID-19 primary vaccine series or booster, please let staff know as they may be able to help you schedule an appointment.
- Most individuals can now be cleared from medical isolation and quarantine after 10 days depending on test results. However, when a facility is on outbreak status, periods of quarantine can last much longer if there is ongoing transmission of COVID-19 within the facility, which is why it is so important during an outbreak to avoid contact with others by staying in your room, wearing a mask anytime you are out of your room, and washing your hands frequently.
- Due to the high COVID-19 reinfection rates with Omicron, serial testing will resume as soon as someone is recovered after getting COVID-19. However, all testing within the first 90 days after infection will be by rapid testing rather than PCR.

The Reentry Division is committed to providing residents and staff with the most current and relevant information for safe operations. We will continue to inform you as changes are made. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we continue to work through this ongoing pandemic.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”