



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

January 16, 2022

**TO:** All AHCC Staff

**FROM:** James Key, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** AHCC Limited Area Outbreak MSU C-4 Unit

On January 15, 2022, Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC) confirmed that 10 incarcerated individuals in Minimum Security Unit (MSU) C-4 Unit tested positive for COVID-19. As a result of these positive test results, and per Department protocol, MSU C-4 unit is considered to be on Limited Area Outbreak status.

On May 5, 2021, the [Department announced](#) an update to the COVID-19 protocols and shared the definition of a Limited Area Outbreak. Facilities that experience an outbreak, that is very limited to one area, may be placed on a Limited Area Outbreak. Meaning only the impacted area would be on outbreak status, and the rest of the facility would remain unaffected.

In a consultation with Headquarters Clinical Leadership and Prisons Operations Leadership, the determination was made that MSU C-4 unit would be placed on a Limited Area Outbreak.

In an abundance of caution and in consultation with Headquarters Clinical Leadership, the decision was made to place MSU C-5 Unit on quarantine while we test the incarcerated population. While MSU C-4 and C-5 units are on quarantine, it is imperative that all incarcerated individuals wear a surgical mask anytime they are out of their room or off their assigned bunk in open bay areas. A cohort schedule has been developed and will be provided for C-4 unit later today, but we must remember that cohorting doesn't stop transmission, it assists in limiting exposure and keeps it between the tiers. Additionally, all staff and incarcerated individuals need to maintain the required six foot social distancing. Incarcerated individuals should stay in their room or on their bunk as much as possible, practice good hygiene and sanitize common areas frequently.

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.

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"***