



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

January 19, 2022

**TO:** AHCC All Staff

**FROM:** James Key, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** AHCC Main Institution COVID-19 Facility Wide Outbreak

On May 5, 2021, the department announced an update to the COVID-19 protocols and shared the definition of a Facility Wide Outbreak. Facilities that experience multiple Limited Area Outbreaks are experiencing a Facility Wide Outbreak. A Limited Area Outbreak is an outbreak, that is very limited to one area. Meaning only the impacted area would be on outbreak status.

Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC) has had new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the incarcerated population from multiple living units. As a result of these COVID-19 positive cases, AHCC has started testing the entire population.

Following the [Prisons Division Cluster and Outbreak Checklist](#) due to the positive COVID-19 tests and the associated quarantined cases that go with them, we have reached a point in time in which we will have to take additional steps to limit the potential exposure of COVID-19 to the incarcerated population.

Beginning today, AHCC Main Institution will be in Restricted Movement status due to COVID-19. This change will impact the incarcerated population's ability to attend regularly scheduled programs, call-outs and services. Additional information will be sent regarding these changes.

Due to both the Main Institution and Minimum Security Unit being on Facility Wide Outbreak Status, programming to include, SOTAP, education, chemical dependency, etc., has been temporarily suspended. Recreation staff are providing activity packets and decks of cards to the incarcerated population.

These steps are meant to minimize the short and long-term impact that our response will have on our incarcerated population. As we move forward in the coming days you can expect to see cohorting in the dayrooms and shower/bathroom areas, serial testing of our incarcerated population, and an increased awareness to personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols, cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting, and social distancing. It is our hope by taking these measures that we can cut down on the amount of potential exposures and reduce the amount of time it will take to get back to a new normal with our operations.

I ask each and every one of you to be committed to following these standards so we can

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move past these restrictions as quickly as possible. By working together, I know that we can get past this difficult time and get to a place in which we can all have some relief from the restrictions that this pandemic has brought upon us all.

Thank you all for your cooperation and patience through this difficult time.