



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

January 19, 2022

**TO:** All Bellingham Work/Training Release Staff & Residents

**FROM:** Vicky Neufeld, Community Corrections Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Bellingham Work/Training Release COVID-19 Facility Wide Outbreak

On January 8, 2022, Bellingham Work Training Release/BWTR was placed on quarantine status as a result of three confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and per the outbreak status protocols. BWTR is now on Facility Wide Outbreak status. The total positive cases of COVID-19 is now eight. The COVID-19 positive residents were placed on medical isolation status in the facility. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we are following appropriate protocols to increase sanitation efforts, screening and serial testing to quickly identify others who may have been exposed and limiting the movement among residents to help eliminate any exposure.

The facility is implementing a structured response to ensure essential activities continue, such as laundry, meals, showers, communication, and releases/transfers/intakes. Your health and safety continue to be our main priority. All medical directives are in accordance with [Washington State Department of Health](#) and [Centers for Disease Control](#) guidelines.

As the department is impacted by the same staffing challenges faced around the state and nation, we appreciate your patience and understanding while we have experienced some staffing shortages. During this past week our kitchen staff was seriously impacted, and we are pleased to report that our kitchen manager has returned. We do continue to remain in emergency operations and have limited staffing, so hot breakfasts will not be served while the facility is on quarantine. You will receive a bowl of cereal, choice of bread, bagel, or English muffin, peanut butter and jelly, a piece of fruit, 2 hardboiled eggs, milk and orange juice. A hot lunch and dinner will also continue to be provided.

Residents have access to cell phones to increase communications with staff, friends and family. It is important that you report any symptoms to staff as soon as you become aware. Ensure you follow the quarantine protocols by wearing your surgical mask at all times, disinfect anything that you touch and wash your hands immediately after touching a surface. Please remain in your room, leaving only for restroom use or in the event of an emergency evacuation.

It is imperative to make sure you are wearing your appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as social distancing at all times. This is especially important when residents are going to and from the bathrooms and showers. Please be diligent in following proper protocols and put on your mask prior to opening your door. Surgical masks will be available for daily replacement or when your mask is wet or soiled.

We appreciate your continued patience. We are working hard to ensure you have resources to address any emotional distress during this time. We will provide activity packets, craft supplies and reading/writing materials to help pass the time if needed.

I want to thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this very difficult time. It is important to remain strong, to support one another, and be kind. Please do your part to stay healthy.

***“Working Together for SAFER Communities”***