



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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January 19, 2022

TO: All MCC Staff

FROM: Ken Bratten, Incident Commander

SUBJECT: MCC Staff Testing Update

First and foremost, we want to thank you for the outstanding job you are all doing through these unprecedented and challenging times. We recognize the sacrifices you have made and the dedication you have all demonstrated every day; this has been truly humbling. We are here once more to ask for your help in getting us through this most recent surge of the pandemic. We recognize everyone is exhausted as we have now surpassed day 680 of COVID-19 response. The stress of being away from your family is real and this new strategy is meant to get more people back sooner. One area this may help in is those that normally would have been out on medical isolation would now be able to return to work sooner to help get people rest.

As we work through this rapid increase in COVID-19 Omicron variant, and the current staffing shortage you are experiencing at your facility, we are asking for your support in taking a two-step approach, which we believe will help keep people at work as well as helping to return those that are at home waiting for a return date. By implementing this new strategy, we will be able to replace all screening activities because the daily test will become the screening.

Step 1

The Incident Command Post (ICP) has put together a team to contact employees currently denied entry. These individuals will be brought back to work on their next scheduled shift and given a rapid antigen test at the facilities point of entry if, they are symptom free or symptomatic but feel well enough to return. If the test is negative, the employee will report to their post. If the test is positive, they will return home and be authorized two hours of administrative leave for their time to come in and test

If custody staff would like to return prior to their next scheduled shift to work overtime, the employee may report to the facility, and be rapid antigen tested at the point of entry. If negative, the employee will be allowed to work overtime and be given three hours of call back. If positive, the employee would be authorized three hours of call back and two hours of administrative leave.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”

Step 2

As a strategy to keep more people available to be at work we are asking you to take a daily rapid antigen test and we are pausing the weekly serial testing. This will take effect today, January 19, 2022, 3rd shift, through January 29, 2022, 3rd shift.

- **Custody staff:** Employees will report to their post and a testing team will be deployed throughout the facility each day to test each custody officer on shift. If the test is positive, that employee will be relieved from post. Custody staff have the option to be tested at the check point site if they choose.
- **Non-custody staff:** At the beginning of your shift, you will be rapid antigen tested at the check point site prior to going to your work location.
- **Check Point Testing Site:** Upon arriving at the testing site, non-custody staff will need to provide a cell phone number and custody staff will need to provide their post location and phone extension. All staff will be provided a color of the day sticker, which they must wear on their DOC identification for the entirety of their workday. The time written on the sticker is the time non-custody can leave their car and go to their workstation. The sticker ensures that you were tested and all those without a sticker colored for that day will need to be sent back out to the testing site for testing or confirmation and a new sticker.

Anyone who tests positive will need to allow 5 days of medical isolation from their original positive test result before returning, on-site, to test on day 6. If positive on day 6, employees will report back to work on day 8 to test again. If positive on day 8, employees will report back to work on day 10. If positive on day 10, employees are to complete the workplace denial form, go home, and then call the secondary screener. Employees required to return to the facility and test on day 6, 8 or 10 that have a positive test will be given two hours of administrative leave for their travel time.

Our safety protocols of masking, social distancing and hand hygiene remain paramount.

MCC testing branch director will ensure that all tests are logged with the date, the person's first and last name and a signature of the person who conducted the testing. All positive results must be forwarded to the Department of Health and the Occupational Health and Wellness mailbox.

A reassessment of this temporary testing adjustment will occur January 29, 2022.

Again, thank you for your hard work and dedication. You do amazing, and often, underappreciated work keeping each other, the community, and those in our care safe.