



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
WASHINGTON CORRECTIONS CENTER FOR WOMEN
MS: WP-04 • 9601 Bujacich Road N.W. • Gig Harbor, Washington 98332-8300

January 26, 2022

TO: All Staff
Incarcerated Individuals
Washington Corrections Center for Women

FROM: Paula Chandler, Co-Incident Command
Casey Carlson, Co-Incident Command
Washington Corrections Center for Women

SUBJECT: Updated - WCCW COVID-19 Facility Wide Outbreak

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.

As of January 25, 2022 WCCW, has had 121 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the incarcerated population from multiple living units. As a result of these COVID-19 positive cases, WCCW has started testing the entire population.

WCCW will continue to be in Facility Wide Outbreak – restricted movement – status due to COVID-19. This will impact the incarcerated population’s ability to attend regularly scheduled programs, callouts, and services. Additional information will be sent regarding these changes.

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 number of potential exposures and reduce the amount of time it will take to get back to a new normal with our operations.

Some recent information to share at WCCW:

- Property schedule has been developed to assist return of property to individuals once cleared by medical to return to units.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”

- Shower schedules have been established for effected areas.
- WCCW has now been designated as phase 3. What this entails is drastic modifications to our operations to allow for the maximization of available resources.
- WCCW has now placed hard-copy communications in each living unit and their unit televisions channel 35.
- WCCW has learned that Correctional Industries is experiencing significant challenges and are unable to meet production demands of statewide commissary. This includes the property and food package program and is due to the current situations at AHCC and MCC, incarcerated workers are greatly impacted by COVID-19. The Emergency Operations Center team at HQ is working to solicit employee volunteers to these locations in order to sustain operations and facilitate individuals receiving their packages.
- Medical staff members will be Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) the entire population this week based on unit location, except for the individuals who are on medical isolation status and currently being housed in the Gym, Segregation, RCF and L Unit areas. Your cooperation and patience are very much appreciated, and imperative to mitigating the spread of COVID-19.
- The RCF was initially opened to house individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 from either a PCR or Rapid Test, but is now closed. Segregation, Gym and L Unit have been utilized to temporarily house individuals who have also tested positive for COVID-19. These steps are meant to minimize the short-and long-term impact that our response will have on our incarcerated population.

Current number as of January 25, 2022:

- YTD positive cases among incarcerated individuals – 85
- Incarcerated individuals on quarantine – 248
- Incarcerated individuals on medical isolation - 48
- Positive serial testing results for WCCW staff since January 1, 2022 – 185

Please remember that wearing your mask, washing your hands frequently and practicing social distancing wherever possible will go a long way to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Washington State Department of Health's guidance, and make your health and safety are our priority. We encourage you to have patience and grace within your community and with staff.

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

PEC:mrj

cc: Sarena Davis Union Coordinator
Electronic File