



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

January 28, 2022

TO: AHCC All Staff

FROM: James Key, Superintendent

SUBJECT: AHCC COVID-19 Weekly Update

On January 19, 2022, Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC) was placed on Facility Wide Outbreak status and began testing the entire population. AHCC has had 611 confirmed new positive cases in the incarcerated population in the last 30 days.

We continue to follow the [Prisons Division Cluster and Outbreak Checklist](#) and remain in restricted movement at this time.

On January 27, 2021, the MSU C6 Recreation building became an additional Alternate Housing Area (AHA) for isolation purposes to house covid confirmed positive individuals that are asymptomatic.

As of today, DOC is expanding the availability for the voluntary use of N-95 respirators to the incarcerated population. Information about voluntary N-95 respirator use will be posted in locations where masks are dispensed and on safety bulletin boards. An N-95 mask can be reused for five (5) days but should be replaced sooner if it becomes soiled. N-95 respirators are available on the living units in the officer stations and incarcerated individuals can request one from unit staff.

Health Services:

We continue to separate suspected or confirmed positive COVID-19 individuals from healthy individuals. Separation occurs as soon as possible, within available resources, as per [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline](#).

There have been concerns shared regarding individuals returning from medical isolation to their living units. We do not move individuals out of medical isolation until they meet CDC/DOC criteria for being recovered from their COVID-19 infection and are no longer considered infectious.

Most incarcerated individuals who test positive for COVID are placed on medical isolation for 10-14 days as per the [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline](#). Those who are vaccinated are released from isolation earlier than unvaccinated people. For individuals who are immune compromised, they will be isolated for a longer period of time.

For a tier to be released from quarantine status, the entire tier must test negative for three test cycles (PCR testing will be done on day 0-2, day 5-7, and day 10-14). If there is one positive test as a result of any of the testing days on the tier, the testing cycle starts over.

Correctional Industries message from Vicki Hoffman, AHCC CI General Manager:

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to all the AHCC Staff and WA DOC Volunteers for the support within our critical AHCC CI Operations. We couldn't do this without you and your dedication to the department. Your extraordinary efforts help support goods and services to our site and other WA DOC facilities to maintain emergent food supplies from our AHCC CI Food Manufacturing group, Statewide Commissary, Foodservices and AHCC onsite Laundry operations. Take care of yourselves and each other. You are truly an exceptional team, thank you.

It is imperative that everyone continue to wear a surgical mask or appropriate [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#). Similarly, it is vital that we continue to follow the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidelines](#): ensuring to follow the six (6) foot physical distancing rule, washing your hands, and keeping high-touch areas of the facility sanitized.

Corrections is committed to everyone's safety. We will continue to communicate with you as we progress through this pandemic.