



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

January 28, 2022

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
All Work Release Residents

FROM: Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Voluntary N-95 Respirator Use

On January 12, 2022, the voluntary use N-95 respirators were made available to department staff. Today we are expanding availability of N-95s for voluntary use to the incarcerated and resident populations.

N-95 respirators will be available to all incarcerated individuals and work release residents for voluntary use. Facilities are in the process of requesting the N-95 respirators, so please be patient as supplies arrive throughout the organization. Depending on the facility, N-95 respirators will be distributed by a staff member or available alongside the surgical masks.

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.

This direction **does not** take the place of mandatory use N-95 respirator activities that are outlined in the DOC COVID-19 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Matrix. The expanded availability of voluntary use N-95 respirators is intended to provide an additional level of protection for those that choose to use such equipment.

Voluntary use of N-95 respirators does not require medical clearance nor fit testing. Although the requirements associated with being clean shaven in the respirator seal area does not apply for voluntary use, the presence of facial hair in this area may reduce the effectiveness of the respirator.

This is another step in our efforts to continue mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 as we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our staff and those in our care and custody.

cc: Mike Obenland, Assistant Secretary, Prisons
Danielle Armbruster, Assistant Secretary, Reentry
Jamison Roberts, Emergency Operations Center Manager
Arminda Miller, Emergency Operations Center Prisons Liaison
Ryan Sadler, Emergency Operations Work Release Liaison

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