



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

February 3, 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 1150 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.

The information in this week's communication is in response to questions the ICP has received from staff. This week the Incident Command Post (ICP) has been working tirelessly due to the widespread positive cases in the facility, the limited number of available medical isolation beds and need to create MI3 congregate medical isolation living areas. This has involved many staff to coordinate and move numerous incarcerated individuals (in some cases multiple times) to establish the MI3 congregate medical isolation living areas. We have heard the frustration from both staff and the population regarding this work. This work is necessary as we continue to follow our agency protocols and strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

We have heard requests from staff and incarcerated individuals to just lock everything down for 14 days to just get this COVID-19 outbreak over with. Although this idea sounds good to some, it is not felt to be a strategy that is likely to work if positive individuals are left on the unit due to shared air and spaces, like dayroom and bathroom/shower areas, even with limited movement. It also does not prevent transmission within a cell between cellmates. Although moving individuals around can be very stressful, it is felt to be the best way to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and to protect individuals. The [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing and Infection Control Guideline](#) provides the required and necessary guidance for all facilities to use in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of February 2, 2022, the facility living units have been identified as the following:

Main:

- **K Unit-Quarantine/Recovered**-Single Cell Cohort for Showers-Portable Phones-Jpay tablet syncing-Video Visits Authorized
- **L Unit- Quarantine/Recovered**-Single Cell Cohort for Showers-Portable Phones-Jpay tablet syncing-Video Visits Authorized
- **M Unit-Isolation Only**-Dayroom access (showers, Jpay tablet syncing, phones)

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"

Upper tier individuals have 45 minutes-out of cell, then 15 minutes for cleaning and sanitization of dayroom.

Lower tier individuals have 45 minutes-out of cell, then 15 minutes for cleaning and sanitization of dayroom. (This is for staff safety to mitigate potential close contacts)

Video Visits Authorized

- **N Unit-Isolation/Quarantine**-Single Cell Cohort for Showers-Portable Phones-Jpay tablet syncing-Video Visits Authorized

- **R Unit A Wing-Isolation Only**-Dayroom access, (showers, Jpay tablet syncing, phones)

Upper tier individuals have 45 minutes-out of cell, then 15 minutes for cleaning and sanitization of dayroom.

Lower tier individuals have 45 minutes-out of cell, then 15 minutes for cleaning and sanitization of dayroom. (This is for staff safety to mitigate potential close contacts)

Video Visits Authorized

- **R Unit B Wing-Quarantine/Recovered**-Single Cell Cohort for Showers-Portable Phones-Jpay tablet syncing-Video Visits Authorized

- **T Unit- Quarantine/Recovered**-Single Cell Cohort for Showers-Portable Phones-Jpay tablet syncing-Video Visits Authorized

- **RCF-Isolation Only**-Hard Line phones-**No access to Video Visits at this time**

- **E-building Recreation (Gym)-Isolation Only**-Hard Line phones-Showers and Jpay table syncing in N Unit A Wing on a schedule-**No access to Video Visits at this time**

MSU:

- **C4 Unit -Isolation only on E, F tiers, Quarantine on A, B, C, D & H tiers**-Single Tier Cohort-Hard Line Phones-Showers and Jpay table syncing-Video Visits Authorized

- **C5 Unit-Isolation only on E, F tier, Quarantine on A, B, C, D & H tiers**-Single Tier Cohort-Hard Line Phones-Showers and Jpay table syncing-Video Visits Authorized

- **C6 (Gym)-Isolation Only**-Hard Line phones-Showers in C6, working on an outside yard, Jpay tablet sync schedule-**No access to Video Visits at this time**

Incarcerated workers:

Recovered incarcerated individuals are returning to work. Staff will be provided a daily authorized worker list from either the Jobs Coordinator or CUS Watkins.

Health Services:

Continue to provide COVID-19 initial and second vaccinations and boosters to incarcerated individuals who request them. Continue to provide COVID-19 test results to the population a couple times a week on a rotating basis.

CI Food Services:

Resumed providing one cold and two hot meals to the population this week.

Cell Searches:

Cell searches can be conducted based on suspicion, staff should notify supervisor of the need to conduct a cell search and gain authorization prior to the search. Please remember to wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for the location and type of search being

conducted per the [WA COVID-19 PPE Matrix](#) and [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing and Infection Control Guideline](#).

Voluntary use of N-95 Mask/Respirators:

This week we communicated with staff and the incarcerated population information regarding voluntary wearing of the N-95 masks. The [WA COVID-19 PPE Matrix](#) directs when an N-95 is required. We currently have medical Isolation areas in our living units, that require this level of PPE. Staff working in these areas are encouraged to be fit tested as soon as possible.

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.

Thank you for all you are doing to keep the facility operating in a safe and secure manner. We could not maintain safe operations during these difficult times without the exceptional staff of AHCC.