



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

February 3, 2022

TO: All Bellingham Work/Training Release Staff & Residents
FROM: Vicky Neufeld, Community Corrections Supervisor
SUBJECT: Bellingham Work/Training Release COVID-19 Facility Wide Outbreak

On January 8, 2022, Bellingham Work Training Release (BWTR) was placed on quarantine status as a result of three (3) confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and per the [Work/Training Release Cluster & Outbreak Checklist](#). BWTR has had 10 positive COVID-19 cases in residents during the last 30 days. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we are following appropriate protocols to increase sanitation efforts, screening and serial testing to quickly identify others who may have been exposed and limiting the movement among residents to help eliminate any exposure.

The facility implemented a structured response to ensure essential activities continue, such as laundry, meals, showers, communication, and releases/transfers/intakes. Your health and safety continue to be our main priority. All medical directives are in accordance with [Washington State Department of Health](#) and [Centers for Disease Control](#) Guidelines.

We are happy to announce that our status is now modified from a Facility Wide Outbreak to a Limited Area Outbreak, with only the 3rd floor in our 1125 building remaining on quarantine. With additional COVID-19 testing, diligence and medical consultation, it is our hope that we will soon be entirely off outbreak status. This is our second outbreak since the fall of 2019. We hope it is the last. If you haven't already been fully vaccinated, to include your booster, you are encouraged to do so.

Residents have access to cell phones to increase communications with staff, friends, and family. For those no longer in quarantine, please remember to turn in your cell phone to staff at curfew in accordance with our pre-outbreak practice. It is important that you report any symptoms to staff as soon as you become aware. Ensure you follow the quarantine and/or covid protocols by wearing your surgical mask at all times, disinfect anything that you touch and wash your hands immediately after touching a surface. Those on the 3rd floor of our 1125 building must remain in your room, leaving only for restroom use or in the event of an emergency evacuation.

It is imperative to make sure you are wearing your appropriate [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#), as well as social distance at all times. This is especially important when residents are going to and from the bathrooms and showers. Please be diligent in following proper protocols and put on your mask prior to opening your door. Surgical masks will be available for daily replacement or when mask is wet or soiled.

We appreciate your continued patience. We are working hard to ensure you have resources to address any emotional distress during this time. We will provide activity packets, craft supplies and reading/writing materials to help pass the time in quarantine if needed.

I want to thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this very difficult time. It is important to remain strong, to support one another, and be kind. Please do your part to stay healthy.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”