



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
MONROE CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX
P.O. Box 777 • Monroe, Washington 98272-0777
Phone (360) 794-2600 • Fax (360) 794-2680

February 3, 2022

TO: All MCC Staff

FROM: Ken Bratten, Incident Commander

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Weekly Update

On January 19, 2022, the Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC) was placed on Facility Wide Outbreak status and began testing the entire population. As of today, the facility has had 855 positive cases in our incarcerated population over the last 30 days.

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

Here are updates from the past week:

- Weightlifting Fee Waiver – This memo was sent from HQ on January 28, 2022, and states, “Incarcerated individuals who have already paid fees for January-March (3rd quarter of fiscal year 2022) will have their fees waived for next quarter, as long as access to weightlifting areas is restored.” Please see the memo for more detailed information.
- Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund Comfort Items – This memo was sent from HQ on February 2, 2022, and outlines the following:
 - Effective February 1st, individuals with an active JPay account will be receiving a \$15 credit to use for stamps, games and/or music. You have until June 30th, 2022, to use these funds before it’s removed from your account.
 - Effective February 1st, GTL (phone system provide) will add a \$10 credit to individual phone accounts to support your contact with family and friends.
 - In the coming days, a comfort item bag being handed out to all incarcerated. Please see the memo for more detailed information.

CAUTION: HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISORY - We would like to remind the incarcerated population of the dangers of consuming alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Consuming alcohol-based hand sanitizer may cause nausea, vomiting, headache, blurred vision, permanent blindness, seizures, coma permanent damage to the nervous system or death.

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

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”

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.

We are doing the best that we can with the resources that we have available to us. Similar to challenges at the beginning of the outbreak when everyone tested positive at once, we are now facing those challenges again as people become COVID-19 recovered. We know that these constant moves are difficult for incarcerated and staff alike. In an effort to minimize the number of moves, we are trying to get individuals back to their home facility as the spots open up rather than having to make stops in between.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation through this process. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted not just prison operations, but connections with families in and outside of corrections. We are all in this together and staying patient, being understanding of others challenges and remaining kind to each other is the only way to get through this.