



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

February 3, 2022

TO: All Prisons Staff
All Work Release Staff
All Incarcerated Individuals
All Work Release Residents
All Interested Parties

FROM: Cheryl Strange, Secretary

SUBJECT: DOC Continues to Suspend Visitation at DOC Facilities

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) continues to see the significant impacts of the Omicron COVID-19 variant that are mirrored across the state. The health and safety of those in our care and custody, our staff, and the public remain our highest priority. In response to the continued level of COVID-19 cases in both incarcerated individuals and staff, all DOC prison and work release visitation, including extended family visits, will continue to be suspended, with a date to reevaluate set for no later than March 3, 2022. Should the situation change sooner, the department will be prepared to resume visitation sooner.

I am sorry that we do not have better news for those in our custody and their families and loved ones. The DOC continues to experience COVID Clusters or Outbreaks in all 12 of its prison facilities and the majority of Work Releases.

Our agency will continue to monitor COVID-19 data, the number of facilities on outbreak status, and staffing levels to provide direction based on the guidance of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and opinions of Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

We do not take this step lightly; we know that visitation is an essential part of reentry and only take this step out of a necessity to keep you safe.

For more information on DOC's response to COVID-19, we encourage you to visit the department's [COVID-19 webpage](#), where you can view the [Significant Events Timeline](#), [COVID-19 data](#), and [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Additionally, you can [subscribe to the COVID-19 bulletin](#) to receive regular updates to your email account.