



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
WASHINGTON CORRECTIONS CENTER FOR WOMEN
MS: WP-04 • 9601 Bujacich Road N.W. • Gig Harbor, Washington 98332-8300

February 8, 2022

TO: All Staff
All Incarcerated Individuals
Washington Corrections Center for Women

FROM: Paula Chandler, Co-Incident Commander
Casey Carlson, Co-Incident Commander
Washington Corrections Center for Women

SUBJECT: Update - WCCW COVID-19 Facility Wide Outbreak

The [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guidelines](#) provides the protocol for managing COVID-19 outbreaks in DOC facilities. Per these guidelines, an:

- Outbreak is defined as a group of confirmed cases of COVID-19 that includes at least one incarcerated individual.
 - **Limited Area Outbreak:**
 - Two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in incarcerated individuals occurring within 14 days who reside in the same living area OR
 - One or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in an incarcerated individual AND one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in staff or volunteers working in proximity to the incarcerated individual case/cases occurring within 14 days.
 - **Facility Wide Outbreak:**
 - Two or more Limited Area Outbreaks that are connected, occurring simultaneously in the same facility.

Per these guidelines, WCCW will continue to test the entire population. Over the last 30 days, there have been 126 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the incarcerated population at WCCW, and since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic there have been 206 confirmed cases among WCCW staff.

Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) will continue to be operated under Facility Wide Outbreak – restricted movement – status due to COVID-19. This will impact the incarcerated population's ability to attend regularly scheduled programs, callouts, and services.

The facility is following the protocol to minimize the short and long-term impact that our response will have on the incarcerated population. As we continue moving forward, you will see cohorting in the dayrooms and shower/bathroom areas, continued serial testing of the incarcerated population,

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increased awareness of [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) protocols, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and social distancing. We hope that by taking these measures, we can minimize the number of potential exposures and reduce the amount of time it will take to get back to a new normal with our operations.

Some recent information to share at WCCW:

- There will be a memo to the population from the incident command regarding the need to abide by the living unit cohort schedules.
- The law library will open for incarcerated individuals in 30-minute increments. To request an appointment, please kite box 28.
- WCCW has been designated as Phase 3 Staffing. This staffing phase requires more significant operational modifications to our operations to allow for the maximization of available resources.
- WCCW continues to place hard-copy communications in each living unit.
- Correctional Industries continues to experience significant challenges and cannot meet the statewide commissary's production demands. This includes the property and food package program. The Emergency Operations Center team at HQ has worked to solicit employee volunteers to Airway Heights Corrections Center and Monroe Correctional Complex to sustain operations and facilitate individuals receiving their packages.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 from either a PCR or Rapid Test will be temporarily housed in Segregation, Gym, and L Unit with other individuals who have also tested positive for COVID-19. These steps are meant to minimize the short- and long-term impacts our response will have on the incarcerated population.

Please remember that wearing your mask, washing your hands frequently, and practicing social distancing wherever possible will go a long way to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Washington State Department of Health guidelines, and make your health and safety are our priority. We encourage you to have patience and grace within your community and with staff.

I ask each one of you to be committed to following these standards so we can move past these restrictions as quickly as possible. By working together, I know that we can get past this challenging time and get to a place where we can all have some relief from the restrictions that this pandemic has brought upon us all.

Thank you all for your cooperation and patience through this difficult time.

PEC:mrj

cc: Sarena Davis, Teamsters 117 Union Coordinator
Electronic File