



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

February 11, 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 1210 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. Please see operational area updates below.

Maintenance:

The cable TV disruption to channels 4 and 12 has been resolved.

Health Services:

Although we continue to make housing moves to manage the current COVID-19 Facility Wide Outbreak, we are seeing a steady decrease in the number of moves necessary due to fewer positive tests received for the population. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding with this situation and want to remind everyone of some of the key standards that have guided recent housing decisions.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [currently recommends a 10-day isolation and 10-day quarantine](#) for residents, regardless of vaccination and booster status in their updated guidance. Department of Corrections (DOC) works in collaboration with [Washington State Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) to regularly update quarantine and medical isolation protocols. Currently, corrections uses the 10-day guidance for most individuals in medical isolation and quarantine. However, unvaccinated individuals continue to isolate for 14 days, due to the concern for longer periods of being infectious. A rapid test is being done at the end of isolation to help guide clearance and evaluate the timeframes selected. The guidance changes frequently, and the department is constantly adapting.

Per the [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline](#), cluster/outbreak resolution requires serial testing of the population, repeating every seven (7) days until all incarcerated individuals in the quarantined area have two consecutive negative weekly results. More frequent testing may be necessary depending on environmental factors and severity of the outbreak and in discussion with the ICP and EOC; and once serial testing results show that all incarcerated individuals in the living area or work release have two negative tests on days 5-7 and 10-14 AND they have been on quarantine status at least 10 days from the last contact with COVID-19 positive or symptomatic patients, the living area or work

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release can be removed from quarantine

CI Food Service:

Food Service anticipates returning to a regular mainline menu, as early as Tuesday February 15, 2022, to include a hot breakfast.

Commissary, Food Factory and Optical have slowly started to reopen operations with our regular recovered workforce skilled in these industries.

Laundry services will continue a modified schedule for the next few weeks. We truly appreciate the individuals who have volunteered in Laundry Service and Foodservice operations to help maintain regular operations and service to the facility. AHCC Correctional Industries would like to thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate through this situation.

AHCC CI would like to express our deepest appreciation to all the AHCC staff and WA DOC volunteers for the support within our critical AHCC CI Operations. We couldn't do this without you and your dedication to the department. Your extraordinary efforts help support goods and services to our site and other WA DOC facilities. With your assistance we have been able to maintain AHCC Laundry operations, emergent food supplies in our AHCC CI Food Manufacturing group, Statewide Commissary and Foodservices. Take care of yourselves and each other. You are truly an exceptional team.

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 your continued patience and understanding as we navigate these challenging times.