



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

February 14, 2022

TO: All Bellingham Work Training Release Staff and Residents
FROM: Vicky Neufeld, Community Corrections Supervisor
SUBJECT: Limited Area Outbreak Status Resolution

On January 8th, 2022, Bellingham Work Training Release (BWTR) was placed on Facility Wide Outbreak status as result of three (3) positive COVID-19 and per the [Work/Training Release Cluster & Outbreak Checklist](#). Positive tests continued in the weeks to follow within both our staff and resident population. On February 3, 2022 we announced that BWTR's status was changed to Limited Area Outbreak, with only one (1) floor on quarantine status. BWTR continued to follow COVID-19 protocols and on February 10, 2022, DOC medical cleared the facility from outbreak status which allowed the return to normal pre-outbreak operations.

All facility staff have subsequently been cleared to return to work in accordance with the agency's Return to Work Guidance and all residents have been cleared from isolation and quarantine.

We will continue to take the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe and follow all [Centers for Disease Control guidelines](#) and the [WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guidelines](#). This includes but is not limited to proper hand washing, practicing six (6) foot social distancing rule, wearing surgical masks at all times, keeping the facility clean and sanitized, and allowing residents to acquire the COVID-19 vaccine booster if they are eligible in conjunction with established medical timelines.

We understand this has been a difficult and challenging time for residents and staff alike. We truly appreciate everyone's patience, understanding and respectful interactions as we navigated through this outbreak.