



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

February 24, 2022

TO: All Bellingham Work/Training Release Residents
FROM: Vicky Neufeld, Community Corrections Supervisor
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Outbreak for Bellingham Work/Training Release

On February 17, 2022, Bellingham Work Training Release (BWTR) was placed on quarantine status as a result of two confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and per the outbreak status protocols. The COVID-19 positive residents were placed on medical-isolation status in the facility. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at BWTR, we are following appropriate protocols to increase sanitation efforts, screening and serial testing to quickly identify others who may have been exposed and limiting the movement among residents to help eliminate any exposure.

The facility is implementing a structured response to ensure essential activities continue, such as laundry, meals, showers, communication and releases/transfers/intakes. Your health and safety continue to be our main priority. All medical directives are in accordance with [Washington State Department of Health](#) and [Centers for Disease Control](#) Guidelines.

To mitigate our outbreak, testing was increased. It is our hope that this Saturday's testing will produce negative results across the board and we can soon move to the long-anticipated pre-outbreak operations. I am happy that most of you are fully vaccinated and can continue employment during an outbreak. It is my hope that as COVID numbers decrease, community access will increase and former practices can resume.

Residents have access to cell phones to increase communications with staff, friends, and family. It is important that you report any symptoms to staff as soon as you become aware. Ensure you follow the quarantine protocols by wearing your surgical mask at all times, disinfect anything that you touch and wash your hands immediately after touching a surface. Please remain in your room, leaving only for restroom use or in the event of an emergency evacuation.

It is imperative to make sure you are wearing your appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as well as social distancing at all times. This is especially important when residents are going to and from the bathrooms and showers. Please be diligent in following proper protocols and put on your mask prior to opening your door. Surgical masks will be available for daily replacement or when mask is wet or soiled.

We appreciate your continued patience. We are working hard to ensure you have resources to address any emotional distress during this time. We will provide activity packets, craft supplies and reading/writing materials to help pass the time if needed.

I want to thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this very difficult time. It is important to remain strong, to support one another, and be kind. Please do your part to stay healthy.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”