



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

February 28, 2022

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

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.

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 medical isolation and quarantine.

The facility has followed the required COVID-19 testing protocols/guidelines and there have been no new positive cases in the resident population since February 6th, 2022. In following the agency [Reentry Division COVID-19 Cluster and Outbreak Checklist](#), BWTR is no longer under outbreak status effective February 28th, 2022. Residents are now eligible for one-hour visit sessions with their approved visitors. Please contact your CCO for information on this visit process.

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 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.