



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

March 11, 2022

TO: All DOC Staff
All Incarcerated Individuals
All Work Release Residents

FROM: Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Corrected: Masking Guidelines

We will soon see changes to masking requirements in the community. The department has historically seen increases in positive case counts 2-3 weeks after previous mask requirements were removed. As these changes unfold, the department will continue to exercise our existing masking practices at all locations with a few exceptions.

Exceptions include:

- Effective March 12, 2022 Masks may be removed outside when:
 - Physical distance can be maintained
 - The facility or office is NOT on the following statuses:
 - limited area outbreak,
 - facility wide outbreak
 - facility wide cluster status
- Masks must be worn for outdoor activities involving more than one cohort, multiple living units, or staff events with more than 50 people.
- Mask use inside all locations will remain consistent with what it is today

The agency PPE matrix and Routine Masking guidance is being updated and will have further information to outline specific masking requirements. We will re-evaluate this direction in 3 weeks, and adapt our approach to masking and physical distancing based on:

- Washington statewide transmission rates
- Washington statewide hospitalizations
- DOC transmission rates

It is our responsibility to continue ensuring the health and safety of our fellow staff members, those under our jurisdiction and our friends and families. By frequently washing your hands, socially distancing, and getting vaccinated for COVID-19 and influenza, you can do your part to stay safe and healthy.