



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

March 16, 2022

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

FROM: Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Updated Masking Guidelines



The following masking guidelines are in effect as of today to ensure the department is consistent with guidance provided by the Washington State Department of Health, Labor and Industries, Office of Financial Management, and the Centers for Disease Control.

Please review the attached guidance carefully to identify and understand where and when surgical masks must be worn. The department's [Safe Start document](#) was published today, and this masking guidance will supersede the masking guidance outlined within the plan.

A summary of the updated guidance is as follows:

Non-Congregate Department settings:

- Masks are required for:
 - For all employees in contact with the public/clients while indoors
 - Transports involving the incarcerated/supervised individuals
 - Classroom/meeting settings/other events where three (3) feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained
- Masks may be removed:
 - In back-office settings where only employees are present and vaccination has been verified, without access to public/clients/customers.
 - Outdoor events

Masking is still encouraged for individuals who are unvaccinated for COVID-19 or individuals who are high risk for severe COVID-19 regardless of COVID-19 vaccine status. DOC will continue providing masks for employees regardless of their work location. Voluntary N95 use is still authorized for staff and incarcerated. The agency is revising the PPE matrix to outline further PPE requirements.

It is our responsibility to continue ensuring the health and safety of our fellow staff members, those under our jurisdiction and our friends and family. 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.