



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

March 24, 2022

TO: All Staff

FROM: Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Updated PPE Matrix - Mandatory N95 Respirator Ready

The following PPE guidelines listed and attached are consistent with Washington State Department of Health, Labor and Industries (L&I), and the Centers for Disease Control guidance. Although the updates are mainly focused on PPE guidelines to medical Isolation and Quarantine areas, the updated Matrix applies Department wide. Please note that the PPE Matrix is different from the department's [Routine Masking Guidance](#).

The use of N95 or higher level of respirator protection is required for any in-person interaction with supervised or incarcerated individuals who have:

- screened positive for COVID-19
- are on quarantine status for COVID-19
- or are in medical isolation for COVID-19

To prepare our workforce for compliance, all staff who will potentially work with this identified population, are required to be respirator ready.

Respirator ready is defined as an employee who has been medically cleared for N95 respirator use ([Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire](#)) but has not yet been fit tested. When a respirator ready employee is assigned to a respirator required area (quarantine and medical isolation), the employee will need to be clean shaven in the area of the respirator seal and properly trained and fit tested for the appropriate respirator, prior to working in that area.

It is our responsibility to continue ensuring the health and safety of our fellow staff members and those under our jurisdiction. By wearing proper PPE, frequently washing hands, and continuing to physical distance, staff remain part of the continuing effort to have safe and healthy Department spaces.

Cc: Teamsters
Washington Federation of State Employees