



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
P.O. Box 41101 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1101

April 8, 2022

Dear Families,

I am happy to say that when it comes to COVID-19, we're headed in the right direction. As of this week, only three of our twelve facilities are in some form of outbreak status, and staff are resuming visitation, programming, and services for your loved ones in many facilities across the state.

I also have some good news to share about Extended Family Visits. Families can now begin scheduling EFV's for a start date of April 15, and we are able to increase visitor capacity from three to five. This is really great news and is critically important for families with children, or other extended family, and we are very grateful that our numbers are allowing us to do this.

Another change is that the program fee for EFVs has been reduced by 66%. This means that it now will cost \$5 instead of \$15 but please note that fee must be paid from the incarcerated individual's institution account (in accordance with RCW 72.09.470), rather than paid by the family member. You can view the RCW here:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=72.09.470>.

I am happy to share that we've extended the Free Photo program through the entire month of April. This will allow you and your loved ones to receive photos at the tables. Masking will still be required per the pandemic protocols.

As you are painfully aware, COVID continues to be a changing situation, so it's important to note that locations on facility-wide outbreak status and/or individual units on limited area outbreak status will not be able to participate in visitation. Please check the [visiting webpage](#) for current facility information, scheduling visits, COVID-19 visit rules and more.

We continue to watch COVID protocols, but also work to restore programming and other services to support the success of your loved ones under our care and custody.

Fondly,

Cheryl Strange, Secretary
Department of Corrections