



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
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March 8, 2022

**TO:** AHCC All Staff

**FROM:** James Key, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** AHCC COVID-19 Weekly Update

On January 19, 2022, Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC) was placed on Facility Wide Outbreak status and began testing the entire population. AHCC has had 54 confirmed new positive cases in the incarcerated population in the last 30 days.

On March 5, 2022, K and L Units transitioned to fully recovered units. On March 7, 2022, the AHCC Main facility in consultation with HQ Health Services was removed from Facility Wide Outbreak status and is now on Limited Area Outbreak status. AHCC is also on Facility Wide Cluster status while T Unit and N Unit A Side remains on quarantine status. This means staff will continue COVID testing twice a week.

We continue to follow the [Prisons Division Cluster and Outbreak Checklist](#) and the restricted movement status has been removed from both of the AHCC Main and MSU facilities.

As a result of our current COVID-19 response status and operational needs, we will be demobilizing all COVID-19 alternative housing areas, except for the Regional Care Facility (RCF) which was warm closed on February 25, 2022. All staff assigned to work in the alternate housing areas, except for the RCF will be moved back to their original posts and work schedules. Staff who are impacted by these changes will be receiving notice from the Roster Manager's office.

Pre-outbreak COVID protocols for searches, mask compliance, social distancing, and other facility operational standards will be in place, per the guidance in the Washington State Corrections COVID-19 [Safe Start Plan](#). We will send out additional information regarding the implementation of other programming opportunities, such as volunteer programs and the visiting program once plans are finalized. For individuals that were moved to different housing units within the facility to manage the COVID-19 outbreak, the facility is working diligently to move individuals back to their original housing unit.

The change in our facility COVID status allows us to return to normal movement for all areas of the Main facility, except for T Unit and N Unit A Side. Once T Unit is off quarantine status and N Unit A Side is not housing quarantine and/or medical isolation individuals, they will be allowed to follow the schedule that is currently in place for the rest of AHCC. As before, all movement in the Main facility will be done by custody level (MI3: K, L, and M units, Medium: N, R, and T units).

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In program areas, the preference is that classrooms and/or work areas are cohorted by custody level, but it is recognized that this can be difficult to schedule at times. In those areas, in which classrooms/work areas are comprised of different cohorts, it is required that the cohorts be separated by dividers, physical location, and that there is no interaction between cohorts. Any changes in these requirements must be approved through the facility cohort specialist, Captain Stockwell and IPN, RN Blancher.

The following schedule will be used to initiate movement at AHCC:

Starting on Wednesday, March 9, 2022:

- The Main Gym and outside yard will be open for use. The pre-outbreak Recreation Schedule will be used for all units except for T-Unit, until they have cleared quarantine. The movement will continue to be by unit cohorts for all recreation movements.
  - The Main facility weight deck will open once Recreation staff have a confirmed list of individuals who are eligible to participate in the program.
- The MSU Gym will be open for use. The pre-outbreak MSU Recreation Schedule will be used for all MSU recreation movements.
  - The MSU weight deck will open once the Recreation staff have a confirmed list of individuals who are eligible to participate in the program.
- The AHCC call-out system will be used for all movements. This does not mean that all program areas will be open. As program areas are opened, you will see the changes reflected in the call-out schedule.
- The AHCC Main facility 24-hour movement schedule will be used for all movements, except Mainline.
- All recovered units will resume normal commissary delivery.

Starting on Monday, March 14, 2022:

- Staff searches and the use of the randomizer button will resume in Public Access.
- The Main facility will resume short line for early workers.
- Grab-and-Go mainline for all units that are eligible for regular movement.
- Pre-Outbreak laundry schedule will go back into effect for all living areas.

It is imperative that everyone continue to wear a surgical mask or appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Similarly, it is vital that we continue to follow the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidelines](#): ensuring to follow the six (6) foot physical distancing rule, washing your hands, and keeping high-touch areas of the facility sanitized.

I want to thank everyone for your hard work during these extremely difficult times and I truly appreciate the teamwork and commitment AHCC staff have shown during this recent outbreak.