



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
WASHINGTON CORRECTION CENTER

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May 10, 2023

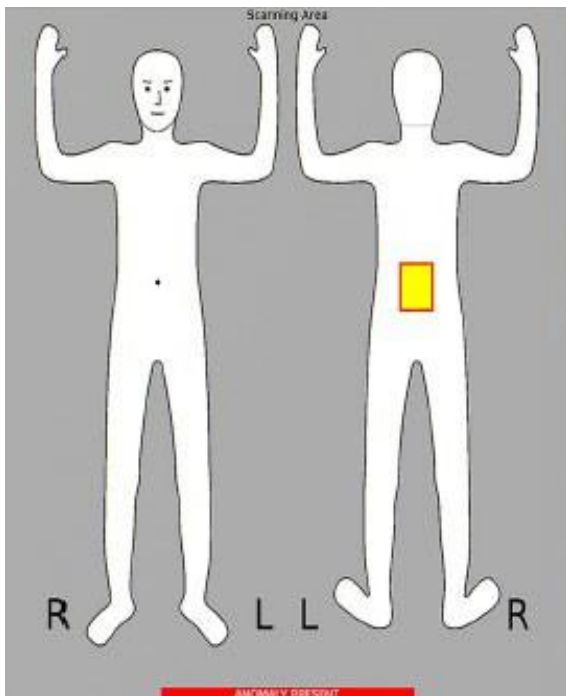
TO: All WCC Visitors

FROM: Dean Mason, Superintendent
Washington Corrections Center

SUBJECT: BODY SCAN SEARCHES OF WCC VISITORS

In 2019, the Washington State Department of Corrections initiated a pilot project to implement body scanner X-ray technology to detect contraband within the population at the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW). This pilot project was successful in safely and effectively reducing the need for strip searches and preventing contraband from entering WCCW.

In order to be compliant with [Senate Bill 5695](#) effective Friday **05/19/23**, all visitors will be searched via body scan upon entry into WCC by the **eqo™** body scanner. The **eqo™** is a stationary electronic body scanner designed to detect the presence of concealed objects on a person's body. The **eqo™** body scanner uses millimeter wave technology and does not emit radiation and safely searches people of all ages who are over 4 feet tall.



[DOC Policy 420.340 Searching and Detaining Facility Visitors](#), requires searches of visitors, (e.g., contract staff, volunteers, vendors, and their agents/employees, and other visitors) on facility grounds. This project allows us the opportunity to search visitors safely and effectively and prevent the introduction of contraband into the facility.

The attachment provided includes a detailed overview of the body scanner process at WCC. The new scanner in public access is the same type of technology you will find in airports. The image produced by the scanner (pictured left) ensures privacy is maintained and quickly detects concealed items or anomalies that may require additional search or inspection.

The careful attention to searches of all persons entering the secure perimeter allows the WCC team to maintain a contraband free environment where individuals can remain focused on programming, reentry and healthy connection with friends and loved ones.

Body Scan Searches of WCCW Visitors

May 5, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your continued partnership in creating a healthy and safe environment at WCC for all to enjoy.

cc: Sean Murphy - Assistant Secretary
Don Holbrook - Deputy Assistant Secretary
Rachel Ericson Deputy Director - Communications
Chuck Anderson Director of Security & Emergency Management
WCC Local Family Council

Public Access Body Scan Procedures for Department Visitors

Per DOC 420.340 Searching and Detaining Facility Visitors:

The Department requires searches of visitors (e.g., contract staff, volunteers, vendors, and their agents/employees, and other visitors) on facility grounds.

Requirements

Visitors to WCC will be subjected to a scan by the **eqo**TM body scan, a type of stationary electronic search designed to detect the presence of concealed objects on a person's body. The **eqo**TM body scanner uses millimeter wave technology, does not emit radiation and is safe for people of all ages.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided to visitors with disabilities per DOC 100.560 Non-discrimination and accessibility for visitors with disabilities.

Visitors may not be required to clear the eqo* body scanner when:

- The visitor is unable to stand, turn and/or raise their hands above their head
- The visitor is under four (4) feet tall

Preparation

In preparation of a scan a visitor must remove the following items and place them in a bin at the baggage scanner:

- Outer garments
- Contents of pockets
- Body pouches/bags
- Belts
- Shoes/Boots

Unauthorized Items

The following items are not allowed in the facility:

- Large jewelry (i.e., broaches, locket, pins, ear coverings, large belt buckles)
- Neckties
- Watches
- Survival/paracord bracelets
- Keys, cellphone, gum
- Tobacco /vapes, or lighters
- Dangerous contraband and/or illegal items

Public Access Body Scan Procedures for Department Visitors

Scanning

Visitors will stand in front of the archway of the scanner and wait for direction by a staff member to proceed. When directed by a staff member the visitor will:

- Enter the scan area through the arch
- Stand on the yellow footprints on the mat, facing operator
- Raise arms shoulder height with palms facing forward
- Complete a 360 degree turn slowly within the marked circle on the mat

The operator will notify the visitor when they can exit the scanning area

Staff Review

At the conclusion of the scan, a staff member will review the image for the presence of anomalies. The staff member reviewing the scan will notify the visitor if additional searches are required or if the visitor may exit the scanning area.

Additional Searches

In some cases, additional searches or a re-scan may be required.

- Common reasons why a re-scan is necessary:
 - Arms not raised high enough
 - Arms not raised throughout entire scan
 - Turning too fast
 - Not completing full turn
 - Moving out of scan zone
 - Items mistakenly left in pockets

A pat search will be conducted if an anomaly is discovered during the initial or subsequent body scan.

Electronic scans by a handheld or stationary metal detector and canine searches may also be conducted in conjunction with a body scan.

Refusal to Scan

Per DOC 420.340 Searching and Detaining Facility Visitors and DOC 21-575 Acknowledgement of Visitor Search Requirements a person who refuses to be searched may be denied access to the facility for a period of 90 days. A second refusal to be searched may result in permanent denial of access to the facility.

Possession of Contraband

Any person found to be possessing contraband will not be permitted inside the facility and may be subject to permanent denial of access. Law enforcement will be notified if a person is found in possession of dangerous and/or illegal contraband.