COVID-19 Vaccination & Testing Information for Visitors
Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC)

Introduction
COVID-19 has disproportionally impacted people who are incarcerated. It remains important to maintain preventive measures like universal masking and hand hygiene, regardless of vaccination status, to help protect your friends, relatives, and loved ones under our care. Active screening, masking, and hand hygiene will still be required of all visitors.

However, we also want to take into consideration the mental wellbeing of the people within our facilities and understand that human contact is important. To allow for close contact, including handholding, hugging, and sitting within six (6) feet, Corrections, with the support of the Department of Health (DOH), requires that all visitors to a DOC facility must:

- Show verification of being fully vaccinated for COVID-19, OR
- Have a negative Binax COVID-19 rapid antigen test onsite the day of the visit.

What does it mean if I have a positive COVID-19 rapid antigen test?
If you have a positive COVID-19 rapid antigen test, you should assume you have COVID-19 infection unless told otherwise from a medical or public health professional. Many people with COVID-19 do not have any symptoms, so it is not unusual for a person with a positive test to feel totally fine. However, even with no symptoms, you can still give COVID-19 to another person. Since we do not want to put your friend, relative, loved one or other people in the facility at risk, your visit will need to be cancelled until it is confirmed that you no longer can pass this virus to others.

What do I do if I have a positive COVID-19 antigen test?
According to public health guidelines, you should stay home except to get medical care. It is recommended that you tell your health care provider you had a positive COVID-19 test. They may want to see you by video or do a phone visit instead of an in-person visit. They may want you to get another type or a repeat COVID-19 test to confirm the diagnosis.

For more information, see the Washington State Department of Health’s “What to do if you have confirmed or suspected COVID-19” (DOH 420-308) at go.usa.gov/x6CeQ.

When can I return and have a DOC in-person visit?
You may reschedule your visit once a public health official or licensed medical provider has cleared you and feel that you no longer can spread the virus to another person. The facility will need a copy of a letter verifying this prior to you returning to the facility.