

COVID-19 Vaccination & Testing Information for Visitors and Volunteers

Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC)

Introduction

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted people who are incarcerated. It remains important to maintain preventive measures like active screening, universal masking and hand hygiene, regardless of vaccination status, to help protect those under our care.

However, we also want to take into consideration the mental wellbeing of the people within our facilities and understand that contact with friends, family and loved ones, education, religious services, and other programming is important. To allow community members to interact with individuals within a DOC facility,, the DOC, with the support of the Department of Health (DOH), requires that all visitors and volunteers must:

- Have a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test onsite the day of the visit, regardless of vaccination status.

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 after a positive COVID-19 antigen test?

You may reschedule your visit or shift after twenty (20) days or 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. If your visit or shift is within 20 days of your positive COVID-19 test result, the facility will need a copy of a letter verifying that you are cleared prior to you returning to the facility.

