



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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TO: All DOC Staff

FROM: Stephen Sinclair, Secretary
Danielle Armbruster, Emergency Operations Center Manager

SUBJECT: Employee PPE Protocols for Patients on Isolation or Quarantine

The coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues to evolve. It is critical to ensure procedures are in place to provide services as appropriate to individuals, while maintaining safe and secure environments. To assist all staff, a [quick reference sheet](#) and [matrix](#) is attached to appropriately identify personal protective equipment (PPE) for specific job types. The documents outline the activity, type of work and appropriate identified PPE. Staff have been trained on universal precautions and are reminded to follow established protocols.

Protocols are intended to assist custody staff in maintaining alignment with the most up-to-date version of *WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline*. For information about how Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) shall be utilized, please refer to the [WA Department of Corrections PPE Quick Reference Sheet](#).

If equipment is not readily available in your work location, to request equipment:

- prison staff will work with their Incident Command Post;
- work release staff will work with work release supervisors; and
- community corrections staff will work with field administrators.

Where indicated, the N95 filter half-face respirator will be used by staff who have been medically cleared and fit tested. Staff are not authorized to use any respirator unless they have been approved for use and fit tested. As a reminder, be sure to inspect each respirator prior to use, ensure it has not exceeded the manufacturer's expiration date, and is in good repair. This would include inspections of straps, nose piece and general integrity of the filtration system.

ISOLATION

Patients who test negative for COVID-19 will remain in isolation until they have been asymptomatic for 14 days, unless they have a documented or confirmed alternative diagnosis that explains their symptoms.

Isolated patients must wear a surgical mask any time they are outside of their cell.

Isolated patients are not to use the phone, or any other dayroom items (microwave, hot shot, etc).

Contact with individuals on isolation:

- N95 mask, eye protection, gown, and gloves needed in the following:
 - Contact with incarcerated individuals with suspected or lab confirmed COVID-19 while symptomatic (cough or sneezing).
- Surgical mask, eye protection, gown, and gloves in the following:
 - When speaking with a symptomatic patient from outside of an isolation cell
 - Any contact with a patient who has tested negative for COVID-19 but remains on isolation
 - Any contact with incarcerated individuals with suspected or lab confirmed COVID-19 without cough or sneezing.
- In the following situations PPE will be comprised of gloves:
 - Passing items through a closed door cuff port and NO face to face contact

Showers being used by those on isolation shall be disinfected after each shower according to the manufacturer's guidelines. The janitor/porter cleaning the shower will need to wear: surgical mask, disposable gown, gloves and eye protection, if supplies are available at the facility. If appropriate PPE is not available at the facility, showers should be suspended.

QUARANTINE

Quarantine is for 14 days at a minimum, and refers to separating those who are NOT symptomatic, but who were exposed to someone who has symptoms of illness.

Any quarantined patient who develops symptoms will be immediately removed from quarantine and placed into isolation.

Quarantined patients may be housed alone or with other quarantined patients from the same exposure.

Quarantined patients may NOT have any interactions with non-quarantined incarcerated individuals.

The following activities are approved for quarantined populations, as long as social distancing of at least six (6) feet is maintained for each activity:

- Outside recreation yards (no more than 50 individuals at a time)
- Day room use

All surfaces must be wiped down/cleaned after the quarantined patient(s) returns to their cell

FOR ALL ON EITHER ISOLATION OR QUARANTINE

COMMISSARY:

A memo will be distributed by DOC Prisons/Health Services Unified Command advising all incarcerated individuals that, if they are on isolation or quarantine status:

- Commissary orders will be submitted via paper form
- Microwaves WILL NOT be available to those on isolation or quarantine

Superintendents must define locations and processes for how commissary orders are to be delivered.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- All patients in isolation or quarantine shall be issued hygiene kits and new clothing as needed
- All patients in isolation or quarantine will receive meals in clamshells at cell-front
- Laundry from isolation or quarantine patients will be placed in yellow bags and transported in rice bags, and washed/treated separately as infectious laundry
- Staff or incarcerated individuals who clean rooms used for isolation or quarantine patients will need to wear PPE consisting of: Surgical mask, disposable gown, and gloves, and ensure the PPE is immediately removed and disposed of once cleaning is complete

SS/DA:eocjic

Attachments:

[COVID-19 PPE Quick Reference](#)

[COVID-19 PPE Matrix](#)

cc: DOC COVID-19