

Contact: Jim Kopriva

360-890-5071 | James.kopriva@doc1.wa.gov

Update: Monday, March 17 @ 4:00 p.m.

Two incarcerated individuals at the Washington Corrections Center (WCC) who presented mumps symptoms last week tested negative for the virus. Experts caution that a negative test does not necessarily rule out mumps. Vaccinated individuals may test negative for mumps but still have it.

Out of caution, **DOC has suspended visitation for the R4 unit at WCC until next Monday, March 24** and movement in that unit will be limited. Families with loved ones in other units will still be able to visit them.

Two other individuals at Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC) who were symptomatic will also be tested this week. Health officials determined that an individual at Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) is not contagious.

Possible cases of mumps identified in several state prisons

Initial Update: Friday, March 14 @ 11:30 a.m.

TUMWATER – Two incarcerated individuals at the Washington Corrections Center (WCC) presented symptoms commonly associated with mumps this week. The state Department of Corrections (DOC) engaged the state Department of Health (DOH) for immediate assistance.

Subsequently, one individual at Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) in Aberdeen, Wash. and another at Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC) in Clallam Bay, Wash. have also presented symptoms. As of Friday morning, there are four potential cases at three facilities.

Both symptomatic individuals at WCC lived in the same unit. Residents and staff in that unit, as well as the adjacent unit, will be screened. Recent former residents will be screened as well.

The symptomatic individual at SCCC had recently arrived from WCC. Their symptoms were discovered upon screening at SCCC. Contact tracing has already been conducted at SCCC.

At present, there is no evidence of a mass outbreak and DOC is awaiting test results to confirm if these individuals do in fact have mumps. Current measures have been implemented out of an abundance of caution.

DOC staff and the incarcerated population have been advised to wash their hands often, cover their nose and mouth when they sneeze and take other precautions to prevent infection.

Mumps is a virus that can cause painful symptoms like swollen glands. The risk of spread is greater in a crowded setting like a prison. It spreads through salivary droplets transmitted aurally by coughing or conversation. It can also be spread physically by individuals sharing a plate or utensil, for example.

The MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine can help prevent infection.

###