



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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August 5, 2020

TO: All interested parties

FROM: 
Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

Subject: Staff serial COVID-19 testing at Corrections

Corrections is constantly evaluating and assessing its practices given the ever-changing circumstances regarding the COVID-19 response, both locally and across our country. The health and safety of staff and incarcerated individuals continues to be our top priority.

The Department's Prisons/Health Services Unified Command has assembled the Staff Testing Group that is working in partnership with the Washington State Department of Health to develop a toolbox to assist facilities across the state in implementing staff serial COVID-19 testing. There are several factors this team has taken into consideration in determining how to prioritize staff serial COVID-19 testing.

These factors include:

- The county percentage of COVID-19 positive cases
- The staff percentage of COVID-19 positive cases
- The incarcerated individual percentage of COVID-19 positive cases
- The increase in growth rate of COVID-19 positive cases in any of the aforementioned factors.

Based on current data, the following facilities have been identified to begin staff testing over the next several weeks as resources come available:

1. Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW)
2. Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC)
3. Washington State Penitentiary (WSP)

With that said, as the Department sees cases increase rapidly in various counties and facilities, any facility could be identified as a testing location. Teamsters 117 has been supportive of the Department's efforts to keep everyone safe, to include implementing staff serial COVID-19 testing where necessary.

Staff at the Washington Corrections Center for Women were notified August 4 that testing for their facility will begin within the next seven days.

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"