December 16, 2020

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals

FROM: Dan Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Health Services
       Frank Longano, Deputy Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Thank you for your ongoing patience as we work to provide the best quality healthcare and work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Please know that all of your efforts, physically distancing, wearing surgical masks or facial coverings appropriately and frequent hand washing, are imperative to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and no words can describe how much we appreciate your ongoing efforts.

The Washington Department of Corrections is in ongoing communication with the Washington Department of Health regarding distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Although the Department does not yet know when it will receive the first doses, it is preparing for that to occur soon. Once received by Corrections, the COVID-19 vaccination will be offered and administered by the Department in accordance with the approved criteria outlined by the Department of Health.

The Department of Corrections has had a survey team out at several facilities, talking with incarcerated individuals about their current state of readiness to accept a vaccine. So far, the survey team has been to Cedar Creek Corrections Center, Washington Corrections Center for Women and the Special Offender Unit at Monroe Correctional Complex.

The Department will provide more information when it has more details on vaccine availability. Please know your health and safety are our priority and we continue working towards readiness to receive and administer as many vaccine doses as possible.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”