February 25, 2022

TO:   All Interested Parties
      All Superintendents

FROM:  Mike Obenland, Assistant Secretary
        Jeannie Darneille, Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Statewide COVID Webinar

As the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) continues to look for ways to share information with families and friends, we are developing a COVID-19 webinar to provide information. This webinar will occur on Friday, March 4th at 2:00 p.m. and a link will be posted to our public website.

As an agency we want to reach out to a broader audience to offer this public webinar to share information that matters most to families and friends. Questions can be submitted to DOCCOVIDQuestions@doc1.wa.gov by Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 to identify the top three to five frequently asked questions to address during the webinar. Webinar attendees will hear from DOC speakers regarding various COVID related topics that may impact visitation, food service, quarantine/isolation information, and vaccinations. Following the webinar, the questions and responses will be posted to the COVID FAQs on the DOC website at https://doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/faq.htm for those who are unable to watch the live stream.

For COVID-19 information at the local facility where your loved one is housed, continue to join the scheduled Local Family Council (LFC) COVID-19 informational calls. Attendees to these calls must be an approved visitor at the location where your loved one is housed to participate. For information about these calls, and how to become an approved visitor, visit the Informational Calls for Friends and Family on our website at COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) | Washington State Department of Corrections

If you have loved ones at other facilities and are not an approved visitor, you may visit our web page at https://doc.wa.gov/family/council.htm#local-family-council and click on the link to the facility. There you will find information regarding the LFC and COVID-19 informational minutes. Feel free to reach out to the LFC Family representatives with questions you may have or would like addressed in future meetings.

We are currently working on a local process for families and friends to be added to a distribution list where you can sign up to receive Superintendent memos to families, information on future LFC meetings and COVID-19 informational calls, and general alerts.

If:MO,JD

cc:   Cheryl Strange, Secretary
      Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary
      All Prisons Deputy Secretaries
      Jo Wofford, Gender Responsive Administrator
      All Family Services Unit
      Paige Perkinson, Program Specialist

“Working Together for SAFE Communities”