August 18, 2022

TO: Labor Partners
   Superintendents
   WR Supervisors
   All DOC Prisons Staff
   All WR Staff
   All Incarcerated Individuals
   All WR Residents
   Interested Parties

FROM: Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Updated COVID-19 Guidelines for Prisons and Work Release Facilities

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) continues to evaluate and update existing COVID-19 protocols based on guidance from clinical leadership, the Centers for Disease Control and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

While COVID remains a serious disease that we will monitor closely, we are now able to change some of these protocols in coordination with DOH.

Effective August 22, 2022, DOC will adopt the following masking changes for prison and work release facilities in line with the Centers for Disease Control guidance for Correctional and Detention facilities.

I am pleased to share the following masking changes for facilities that are not experiencing a Facility Wide Cluster or any facility in outbreak status.

- The recommended strategies for COVID-19 prevention will be based on the current levels of COVID-19 in the community in which the facility resides in and based on COVID-19 activity at each individual facility. Current community levels can be found at this link.
- Facemask use (attached):
  - If community levels are low (green) and there is minimal evidence of COVID-19 activity in the resident population in each individual facility, masking will be offered but not required in general areas. Masking will still be required in medical, quarantine and isolation areas.
  - If community levels are moderate (yellow) or high (red), masking will be required in all indoor areas, including medical, quarantine and isolation areas, regardless of COVID-19 activity in the facility.

Currently, all prison and work release facilities are in counties in the green or yellow category.

Additionally, there will be changes to serial testing, transfer separation timelines and transfer testing. These changes will be included and detailed in Version 33 of WA State DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing and Infection Control Guidelines. Version 33 will be released next week.

Thank you all for doing your part to get us to this point.