

## Current Status

Corrections' staff continue to work extended hours in response to COVID-19. In acknowledgement of their dedication, sacrifice, and commitment; staff recognition groups at facilities across the state have been giving staff treats, snacks, coffee, and/or other forms of appreciation.

## Numbers at a Glance

- **2,348** Total Active Incarcerated Cases
- **1,580** Total Recovered Incarcerated Cases
- **20th** out of 50 states for [number of positive cases](#) (Data from [covidprisonproject.com](#))
- **25th** out of 50 states for [cases as a percentage of the population](#) (Data from [covidprisonproject.com](#))

## Topic of Interest

**Mental Health:** The Department takes all concerns about mental health very seriously and provides opportunities for those in its custody to seek relief whenever possible. Facilities provide activities, puzzles, additional time out with cohorts if possible, and day room activity whenever it is safe to do so.

In addition to the proactive measures noted above, incarcerated individuals currently on medical isolation status are seen by mental health providers per the [WA State DOC COVID-19 Mental Health/Psychiatry Response Guideline](#). These steps, and others, are taken to ensure that those on in our custody are both physically and mentally cared for by health services staff.

## Prison Facilities

### Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC)

- To date, 1,307 incarcerated individuals have tested positive for COVID-19.

#### Testing in MSU

- After receiving the first COVID-19 positive incarcerated cases in MSU the previous week, on December 13, 2020, the Minimum Security Unit (MSU) at Airway Heights entered restricted movement due to COVID-19. At the same time, they began testing all incarcerated individuals in MSU in order to begin separating COVID-19 positive individuals from healthy individuals, in accordance with the Department's science based protocols.

#### Bathroom Access

- Alternative Housing Area in Gym - There are a total of 11 options for the use of restroom facilities in this area – a total of 4 toilets, 6 porta potties and 1 urinal.
- Regional Care Facility - The regional care facility has the capacity to house 30 individuals. There are a total of 5 toilets and 2 urinals that the individuals in the RCF can use at any time. An additional porta-potty is available.
- Facility staff make it their highest priority to respond to any bathroom facility issues.

#### Showers

- Airway Heights, like all Department of Corrections facilities, follows [Department COVID-19 Guidelines](#), the first seven days of medical isolation are to remain highly restricted movement to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19. After 7 days of medical isolation, showers should occur per normal unit operating procedures. Additionally, Corrections continues to provide running water, basins and hygiene products for individuals to utilize for hygiene purposes whenever they desire.

## **Laundry**

- Incarcerated individuals at Airway Heights are provided with clean clothes and linens on a regular basis regardless of where they are housed. In review of facility records.

## **Meals**

- Airway Heights continues to provide meals at regularly scheduled mealtimes to incarcerated individuals. Additionally, the delivery of commissary has continued, providing additional food options to incarcerated individuals.

## **Cleaning Guidelines**

- Airway Heights, like all Department of Corrections facilities, follow the WA DOC Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidelines, sent to facilities on April 8, 2020. These guidelines are based on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) cleaning and disinfecting guidelines in the CDC's Interim Guidance on Management of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities. Based on this guidance, Department of Corrections porters were trained on proper safety and use of appropriate cleaning products. Each facility continues to adhere to these guidelines.

## **Medical Isolation**

- Airway Heights follows the below protocol in place for regular checks by medical personnel in medical isolation units, in addition to all Washington State DOC COVID-19 protocols:
  - Patients isolated in a living unit in prison with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will have nursing assessments and vital signs at least every shift, with consultation with a practitioner as clinically indicated.

## **T-Unit**

- T Unit is an alternative housing area for COVID-19 positive individuals who are asymptomatic. Housing locations change as medical needs change, and as individuals recover they are moved out of the Regional Care Facility to an appropriate housing location.

Individuals in T Unit have access to:

- Daily clothing exchange,
- Full dayroom access, (showers/phones/JPay),
- Kiosk,
- Access to microwaves,
- Commissary,
- Regular mail delivery and services for outgoing mail, and
- Personal property.

## **Incarcerated Workers**

- Incarcerated Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are quarantined per our science based protocols, and do not report for work.
- Airway Heights has and continues to, explore all options to include, the contracting out for food and laundry services.
- Corrections continues to request resources when necessary, but due to the affects across the state of COVID-19, these resources can be increasingly difficult to find.
- However, as of Monday, December 14, 2020, laundry services were contracted with an external service, some components of food production are also currently contracted out due to COVID-19, and Department of Corrections employees continue to supplement positions typically held by incarcerated individuals who are unable to work due to COVID-19, until those individuals receive medical clearance to return to work.

## **Coyote Ridge Corrections Center (CRCC)**

- To date, 353 incarcerated individuals have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Scheduled cohort yard times have been extended at the Minimum Security Unit.
- Vaccine informational posters have been posted throughout the facility. (see photo gallery)

### Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC)

- To date, 786 incarcerated individuals have tested positive for COVID-19.

### Washington Corrections Center (WCC)

- To date, 622 incarcerated individuals have tested positive for COVID-19.

### Washington State Penitentiary (WSP)

- To date, 697 incarcerated individuals have tested positive for COVID-19.

## Work Release Facilities

### Ahtanum View Work Release

- To date, 2 residents have tested positive for COVID-19.

### Peninsula Work Release

- To date, 1 resident has tested positive for COVID-19.

## Significant Event Timeline

The [COVID-19 Significant Event Timeline](#) is published publicly for interested parties and stakeholders to promote and cultivate an environment of integrity and trust, and to foster openness, values which are part of Corrections' mission to improve public safety. The following events occurred yesterday and today:

- 12/24/2020 – Memo to [Prisons Staff](#): COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance
- 12/24/2020 – Memo to [Incarcerated Individuals](#): JPay Offerings Extended

For additional information visit [doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/](https://doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/)  
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