

Corrections' COVID-19 Bulletin

September 23, 2021
Bulletin 79



Current Status

On Sept. 20, 2021, an 82 year old male at the Washington State Penitentiary died of COVID-19.

The Department of Corrections will no longer issue individual press releases on the passing of incarcerated persons to COVID-19. Feedback from families of incarcerated individuals lost to COVID-19 has indicated such news releases have been painful for families already separated from their loved ones prior to the death, and such press releases serve little purpose as family is already notified. DOC will continue to update our [COVID-19 data dashboard](#), which includes incarcerated and staff deaths from COVID-19, as well as calendar year data on mortality of incarcerated individuals, that also includes deaths due to COVID-19, [on our website](#) for transparency purposes.

Numbers at a Glance

- **1,923** Total Staff Cases to Date
- **13,334** August 2021 Total [Average Daily Population](#) of Incarcerated Individuals for Prison and Work Release Facilities
- **127** Total Active Incarcerated Cases
- **6,444** Total Recovered Incarcerated Cases
- **9,409** Incarcerated Individuals have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- **4,222** Staff* have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- **19th** out of 50 states for [number of positive cases](#) (Data from [covidprisonproject.com](#))
- **21st** out of 50 states for [cases as a percentage of the population](#) (Data from [covidprisonproject.com](#))

**This number includes Corrections Staff, Contract Staff, Office of the Ombuds and Disability Rights Washington who received vaccine doses from DOC and does not include those staff members who were vaccinated elsewhere*

Clinical Corner

Introducing our Clinical Corner, where you can find current information about DOC's COVID-19 protocols, vaccine information and more from health services clinical staff.

There has been a lot of talk about additional COVID-19 vaccinations on a national level. These conversations in the media have led to some confusion due to a lack of clarity around different indications and terms used. What is currently recommended and what is the difference between a 3 dose vaccine series vs. booster?

3 dose vaccine series: For most people, two shots of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) is enough to cause the immune system to react, resulting in protection against getting COVID-19, especially serious infection. People with immune system problems don't respond as strongly to vaccinations. However, getting a third dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 28 days after the second dose resulted in a better response. Therefore, it is now recommended that anyone with a significantly compromised immune system get a 3-dose series of an mRNA vaccine instead of just two shots. This includes people who have primary immunodeficiency, advanced or untreated HIV infection, an organ or bone marrow transplant, or are receiving chemotherapy, high dose corticosteroids (like prednisone), or another immunosuppressive drug. If you think you may be eligible for an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine, ask your health care provider.

We don't know at this time whether people who are immunocompromised who received the J&J vaccine will have a better response following an additional dose, so this is not yet recommended. Stay tuned!

Booster dose: A booster dose is an extra dose of vaccine given after the initial series because the response to the vaccine is thought to have slowly weakened over time. No booster doses of any COVID-19 vaccine can be provided yet. The advisory committee to the FDA began discussing who should be eligible for a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine and how long after the primary series it should be recommended. The committee recommended that certain groups, such as those over the age of 65 and those at high risk of severe illness, receive a booster dose 6 months or more after the second Pfizer dose. Final guidance from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is expected next week and is required before booster vaccines can be provided. Booster doses for the Moderna and J&J vaccines have not yet been discussed. Check back for updates!

Prison Facilities

Limited Area Outbreak

Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

- Number of new cases in last 30 days: 22
- Number of confirmed cases to date: 441

Monroe Correctional Complex

- Number of new cases in last 30 days: 9
- Number of confirmed cases to date: 567

Olympic Corrections Center

- Number of new cases in last 30 days: 3
- Number of confirmed cases to date: 3

Stafford Creek Corrections Center

- Number of new cases in last 30 days: 30
- Number of confirmed cases to date: 1236

Facility Wide Outbreak

Clallam Bay Corrections Center

- Number of new cases in last 30 days: 97
- Number of confirmed cases to date: 100

Washington Corrections Center

- Number of new cases in last 30 days: 97
- Number of confirmed cases to date: 1088

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.

- 9/11/2021 HQ EOC — **Seeking Colleagues with an Active EMT or Paramedic License**
DOC Health Services sent an email to all staff proactively examining options within the department to supplement Health Services staff where permissible with Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians in response to the nationwide shortage of health services staff. Per an all staff email sent on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, this effort was paused.
- 9/9/2021 HQ EOC — [Memo to All Staff: Reminder - Pfizer Vaccine First Dose Deadline](#)

For additional information visit doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/
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