



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY
PRISON
FACILITY/SPANISH MANUALS

REVISION DATE
9/9/21

PAGE NUMBER
1 of 9

NUMBER
DOC 420.311

POLICY

TITLE
DRY CELL SEARCH/WATCH

REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY:

Effective: 12/3/02
Revised: 10/16/07
Revised: 3/5/09
Revised: 12/12/11
Revised: 3/1/15
Revised: 9/9/21

SUMMARY OF REVISION/REVIEW:

Major changes to include updated terminology throughout. Read carefully!

APPROVED:

Signature on file

CHERYL STRANGE, Secretary
Department of Corrections

8/6/21

Date Signed

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUALS		
	REVISION DATE 9/9/21	PAGE NUMBER 2 of 9	NUMBER DOC 420.311
	TITLE DRY CELL SEARCH/WATCH		

REFERENCES:

DOC 100.100 is hereby incorporated into this policy; [RCW 9.94.040](#); [RCW 9.94.041](#); [RCW 69.50](#); DOC 320.200 Administrative Segregation; DOC 420.250 Use of Restraints; DOC 420.310 Searches of Offenders; DOC 420.375 Contraband and Evidence Handling; DOC 420.380 Drug/Alcohol Testing; DOC 440.050 State-Issued Clothing/Linen; DOC 470.150 Confidential Offender Information; [Records Retention Schedule](#)

POLICY:

- I. The Department has established procedures for placing an incarcerated individual in a secure room/cell for the safe recovery of suspected swallowed or internally concealed contraband/foreign object to ensure the individual's safety and health and safeguard facility security.

DIRECTIVE:

- I. General Requirements
 - A. A dry cell search/watch will only be authorized when the Superintendent/designee with the rank of Captain or higher determines reasonable suspicion exists that an individual is concealing contraband/foreign objects internally.
 1. When reasonable suspicion is based on information supplied by a confidential informant, the reliability of the informant and the information provided will be assessed and documented per DOC 470.150 Confidential Offender Information before placement.
 - a. After normal business hours, the Duty Officer may assess the reliability of the informant and information through the Shift Commander.
 - B. DOC 21-408 Dry Cell Search/Watch Authorization must be completed and approved before placing an individual on a dry cell search/watch.
 1. After normal business hours, verbal authorization may be provided and must be documented as soon as possible on the authorization.
 2. Individuals approved for dry cell search/watch will be assigned Administrative Segregation status per DOC 320.200 Administrative Segregation.
 - C. In Level 3 and higher facilities, the dry cell search/watch will be conducted in a room/cell located in the facility hospital/infirmary/Close Observation Area.

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUALS		
	REVISION DATE 9/9/21	PAGE NUMBER 3 of 9	NUMBER DOC 420.311
	TITLE DRY CELL SEARCH/WATCH		

1. In Level 2 facilities, the Superintendent/designee will make arrangements to transport the individual to a facility with the necessary resources.
- D. Initial placement on a dry cell watch must be concluded within 72 hours or after 3 consecutive normal bowel movements, whichever occurs first.
1. The appropriate Deputy Director may authorize a 24 hour extension in writing up to 3 times after initial placement if:
 - a. The individual has not had 3 consecutive normal bowel movements within 72 hours.
 - b. The individual has had 3 consecutive normal bowel movements, but internally concealed contraband/foreign objects is still suspected.
 - c. There is reasonable suspicion that the individual is concealing the item(s) in a vaginal cavity.
 - d. There is reasonable suspicion that the individual has re-ingested or reinserted the contraband/foreign object or taken evasive or extraordinary steps to prevent passing the contraband/foreign object.
 - 1) Before the extension is authorized, health services employees/contract staff will complete an immediate assessment and notify the Facility Medical Director/designee of the results.
 - 2) The Deputy Director will notify the Chief Medical Officer of the decision.
 2. If it is determined that the dry cell watch should exceed 7 days:
 - a. Written authorization from the Assistant Secretary for Prisons/designee must be obtained. The Assistant Secretary for Prisons/designee will notify the Chief Medical Officer of the decision.
 - b. A mental health assessment will be conducted.
 3. Extension requests must include specific and reliable information to justify the request.
- E. When being escorted to/from the dry cell watch room/cell:

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUALS		
	REVISION DATE 9/9/21	PAGE NUMBER 4 of 9	NUMBER DOC 420.311
	TITLE DRY CELL SEARCH/WATCH		

1. Wrist restraints will be used per DOC 420.250 Use of Restraints.
2. The individual will be escorted by 2 custody employees.
3. Pant legs will be tightly taped, allowing for circulation, so contraband will not be lost down the pant leg.

F. A urine drug test will be conducted per DOC 420.380 Drug/Alcohol Testing upon initial placement, if the dry cell watch is extended past 72 hours, and at the conclusion of the watch.

1. Urine drug tests may be conducted throughout the dry cell watch to monitor the presence of drug/alcohol substances.

II. Initial Placement

A. Upon notification that a dry cell watch is being initiated, the individual's health record and any current health status reports will be reviewed by a facility Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, Physician, or Physician's Assistant to ensure a continuation of medically necessary prescriptions, modalities, and/or medical devices, and to address any medical and/or mental health complaints the individual may have.

1. X-ray examinations will only be performed when medically required.

B. The individual will be:

1. Provided mental health services upon request.
2. Given the opportunity to voluntarily retrieve the contraband/foreign object.
 - a. The request for voluntary retrieval and the results will be documented in the dry cell search/watch logbook.
3. Strip searched and/or searched via electronic body scanner per DOC 420.310 Searches of Offenders.
4. Provided a copy of this policy by the Shift Commander.

III. Conduct of the Watch

A. An employee will be designated as the Watch Officer, who will:

1. Be of the same gender as the individual.

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	<p>APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUALS</p>		
	<p>REVISION DATE 9/9/21</p>	<p>PAGE NUMBER 5 of 9</p>	<p>NUMBER DOC 420.311</p>
	<p>TITLE DRY CELL SEARCH/WATCH</p>		

- a. Individuals who identify as transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming will be assigned a Watch Officer who is the same gender as the individual identifies with, whenever possible.
2. Be provided with:
 - a. The individual's conditions of confinement.
 - b. Restroom relief at least every 4 hours.
 - c. Means to contact the Shift Commander without leaving the post.
 - d. A post operations manual for a dry cell search/watch and logbook to record all information pertaining to the watch.
 - 1) The Watch Officer will not allow completing entries in the log to distract from watching the individual's activities
3. Maintain constant visual observation of the individual.
4. Ensure unauthorized persons are not allowed in the immediate area of the dry cell watch and contact the Shift Commander before entering or allowing entry into the room/cell.
5. Notify the Shift Commander:
 - a. Before the individual is moved/removed from the cell/room.
 - b. When the authorized time limits have expired,
 - c. When contraband has been retrieved, and/or
 - d. When the individual has had the 3 required consecutive normal bowel movements.
- B. Health services will:
 1. Conduct physical assessments, monitor vital signs, and document behavioral observations for individuals placed on a dry cell search/watch.
 - a. Assessments will be conducted at least:
 - 1) Every hour on the first day
 - 2) Every 2 hours on the second day
 - 3) Every 3 hours on the third day
 - 4) Every 4 hours on the fourth and subsequent day(s)
 - b. Health services checks will be documented in the watch logbook and on DOC 13-528 Infirmary/Extended Observation Unit Dry Cell

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUALS		
	REVISION DATE 9/9/21	PAGE NUMBER 6 of 9	NUMBER DOC 420.311
	TITLE DRY CELL SEARCH/WATCH		

Watch Assessment or DOC 13-594 Close Observation Dry Cell Watch Assessment, as appropriate.

- c. If the individual refuses assessment, it will be documented on DOC 13-435 Primary Encounter Report.
 - d. Stimulants and/or laxatives will only be provided with approval from the Facility Medical Director and Superintendent/designee.
- C. The individual will keep hands in plain sight at all times except when sleeping.
- D. The Shift Commander will:
- 1. Make at least one post inspection every 4 hours to confirm that the Watch Officer is properly briefed, and the dry cell watch is being conducted properly including required entries in the watch logbook.
 - 2. Check and log the room/cell temperature.
 - 3. Document each inspection in the watch logbook and note any deficiencies and/or corrective actions.
- E. Custody employees/contract staff will not restrict medications that have been ordered by a health care provider before or during the dry cell watch.
- 1. If restrictions are made by health services employees/contract staff, the decision(s) and the reason(s) will be documented in the health record.

IV. Searches

- A. Employees will use extreme caution and vigilance when involved in a dry cell search/watch to ensure the individual does not re-ingest the contraband/foreign object, secretly remove an object which may be used as a weapon or cause self-injury.
- B. Searches will be conducted by officers, other than the Watch Officer, with reasons for the search and results documented in the watch logbook.
 - 1. All items removed from or placed in the room/cell will be searched.
 - a. Feces, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene pads will be thoroughly checked for contraband using appropriate protective equipment.
 - 1) Employees will dispose of feces and urine by flushing it down a toilet other than the one in the dry room/cell.

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUALS		
	REVISION DATE 9/9/21	PAGE NUMBER 7 of 9	NUMBER DOC 420.311
	TITLE DRY CELL SEARCH/WATCH		

2. The room/cell will be searched at least once every 8 hour shift.
 3. The individual will be strip searched before being removed from the room/cell for any activity.
 4. The individual will be strip searched and the cell searched at each exchange of clothing, and at the conclusion of the dry cell watch.
 5. Other searches may be performed anytime there is suspicious activity.
- C. Any contraband found will be processed per DOC 420.375 Contraband and Evidence Handling.

V. Conditions of Confinement (COC)

- A. Individuals placed on a dry cell watch will be provided COCs per Attachment 1 unless safety or security considerations dictate otherwise.
1. Except in emergency situations, modifications to COCs must be documented and approved by the Superintendent/designee on DOC 21-632 Restrictive/Secured Housing Unit Conditions of Confinement Modification Approval.
 2. Modifications imposed for emergency situations will be reviewed by the Superintendent/designee.

VI. Release from Dry Cell Watch

- A. The release of an individual from dry cell watch will be determined and authorized by the Superintendent/designee per DOC 320.200 Administrative Segregation and documented on DOC 21-408 Dry Cell Search/Watch Authorization and in the watch logbook.
1. After normal business hours, verbal authorization may be provided and must be documented as soon as possible on the authorization.
 2. A copy of the completed authorization will be given to the individual upon release from the dry cell watch.
 - a. All confidential information that could lead to the identification of informant sources will be removed or redacted/blacked out.

VII. Documentation

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUALS		
	REVISION DATE 9/9/21	PAGE NUMBER 8 of 9	NUMBER DOC 420.311
	TITLE DRY CELL SEARCH/WATCH		

- A. A report will be completed in the Incident Management Reporting System (IMRS) upon initial placement, when contraband is recovered, and at the conclusion of the dry cell watch.
- B. The Watch Officer will ensure at least the following is documented in the watch logbook:
 1. Any statements the individual may make concerning the circumstances that resulted in their placement on dry cell watch,
 2. Any unusual behavior,
 3. What and when the individual eats and drinks,
 4. The times the individual urinates and defecates, including the consistency and approximate quantity of feces,
 5. Exercise periods,
 6. Health services employees/contract staff assessments,
 7. Any contraband recovered,
 8. Availability of hygiene items and whether the individual used them,
 9. All searches conducted,
 10. Room temperature readings twice per shift, and
 11. Conditions of confinement, any changes to the conditions of confinement, and who authorized the changes.
- C. At the end of the dry cell watch, the watch logbook will be maintained in the Captain/Senior Custody Officer's office per the Records Retention Schedule.

DEFINITIONS:

The following words/terms are important to this policy and are defined in the glossary section of the Policy Manual: Reasonable Suspicion. Other word/terms appearing in this policy may also be defined in the glossary.

ATTACHMENTS:

Conditions of Confinement for Dry Cell Watch (Attachment 1)



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY
PRISON
FACILITY/SPANISH MANUALS

REVISION DATE
9/9/21

PAGE NUMBER
9 of 9

NUMBER
DOC 420.311

POLICY

TITLE

DRY CELL SEARCH/WATCH

DOC FORMS:

DOC 13-435 Primary Encounter Report

DOC 13-528 Infirmary/Extended Observation Unit Dry Cell Watch Assessment

DOC 13-594 Close Observation Dry Cell Watch Assessment

DOC 21-408 Dry Cell Search/Watch Authorization

DOC 21-632 Restrictive/Secured Housing Unit Conditions of Confinement Modification
Approval