




STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
P.O. Box 41101 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1101

August 10, 2021

**TO:** All Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Cheryl Strange, Secretary   
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement

On August 10, 2021, Governor Inslee issued [Proclamation 21-14](#) requiring most state employees to become vaccinated for COVID-19. While I understand there is still uncertainty for some regarding the COVID-19 vaccination, this proclamation requires all employees at the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) to be vaccinated in order to remain employed with the agency. For those with questions or uncertainty about the COVID-19 vaccine, I strongly encourage you to speak with your primary care provider. This requirement includes contractors and volunteers.

This proclamation does not apply to incarcerated individuals or facility visitors. While the vaccine remains voluntary for those in our care and custody and visitors, we strongly encourage that these individuals become vaccinated for COVID-19 as well in an effort to continue reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Visitors will continue to be required to show proof of vaccination or take a rapid antigen test prior to their scheduled visit. If you have already been vaccinated for COVID-19 and you have misplaced your vaccination card you can obtain a new one on the [DOH website](#).

Protecting our staff, those in our care and custody, you, and the community from COVID-19 continues to be our priority. Concerns are growing around COVID-19 and the increased rates of infection, hospitalizations, and COVID-related deaths as we enter the autumn season and the school year. We must remain vigilant in mitigating the risk of transmitting COVID-19.

Mask wearing, proper hand hygiene, socially distancing and getting the COVID-19 vaccination remain our most effective tools in keeping ourselves, those in our care and custody, and our friends and family, safe and healthy.