



June 16, 2021

COVID-19 Update: Whitehorse Correctional Centre

The Corrections Branch continues to monitor and assess the dynamic situation presented by the COVID-19 pandemic with extreme care to ensure that its response is appropriate in the circumstances and proportional to the level of risk presented as new developments arise.

Over the course of the last year and a half, the Branch has altered its daily operations in line with the risk of potential exposure and transmission of the virus at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC). A fulsome outline of the proactive practices, as well as the changes over time that both WCC and Yukon Community Corrections have adopted is available in memoranda dated March 23, 2020, April 1, 2020, May 12, 2020 and can be found at Yukon.ca searching Corrections Updates. Given the recent news from the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health regarding the rising active COVID-19 cases in the territory, WCC will immediately be implementing the following measures:

- All professional visits will temporarily revert back to secure visits, with a physical barrier between visitors and inmates to prevent droplet and contact transmission. All incoming professional visitors, will continue to be subject to a pre-screening checklist upon entry, and disinfectant materials will be made available on both sides of the visiting area to enable each individual to clean the area prior to, and after the visit. Since the ability to physically distance while escorting a visitor to the visiting location is limited, the escorting WCC employee will be issued appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Individuals in custody will continue to be permitted to have personal visits via the secure visits process, however, personal visiting hours will be limited to evening timeslots to increase the time available for secure professional visits while maintaining physical distancing requirements due to COVID-19. Recognizing that WCC personal visits are still limited from pre-COVID institutional operations, the correctional centre will continue to provide each inmate with a free, 20-minute telephone call every day.

- o The planned 2021 Summer Solstice event at WCC will continue, however, we have respectfully limited attendance to WCC employees and the Director of Corrections.

As a result of engagement with some of Yukon's remote communities and First Nations offices, Yukon Community Corrections will not be undertaking visits to remote communities for a two week period commencing on June 17, 2021.

As the situation presented by COVID-19 evolves in Yukon, the Corrections Branch will continue to take a measured approach aimed at ensuring the health and safety of correctional staff, clients, and the public while also ensuring the provision of humane essential services guided by the principle of least restrictive measures.

Sincerely,



Andrea Monteiro
Director, Corrections