



King County

Department of Adult
and Juvenile Detention
Director's Office

March 10, 2023

TO: KCCF, MRJC and Jail Health Services staff

FM: Allen Nance, Director, DAJD

RE: KCCF 3W Closure to Ease Staffing and Provide Better Housing Conditions

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, we have experienced significant staff shortages in our corrections officer ranks. While our HR team is doing an outstanding job hiring, we are unable to keep pace with attrition. To better manage our corrections officer workforce, we are committed to finding ways to make our operations more efficient and create opportunities for all staff to experience relief.

I would like to inform you of DAJD's plan to reduce the number of jail residents currently housed at KCCF and maximize our use of the MRJC, starting with the move and closure of 3W and a shift to some double-bunking at the MRJC. This move will initially include approximately 50 minimum security residents.

In order to benefit from the MRJC efficiencies, we will be maintaining one officer in the double-bunked unit at the MRJC. Leadership will be working with staff to develop the safest unit schedules and operational practices. We are committed to increasing the ratio of staff to residents as our staffing improves, but also believe that moving these residents from KCCF to MRJC will improve current living conditions for those in our custody and in turn lower the daily operational challenges for our staff.


The Department plans to proceed with the moves as soon as feasible, likely over this weekend, Saturday March 11th and Sunday March 12th. Classification staff will provide to DAJD staff and JHS partners, a list of those scheduled to transfer the day prior to operations, to facilitate preparation for the move. We expect to complete the necessary transfers and fully close 3W by the week of March 13th. Preparation has already begun with resident moves between units within MRJC in anticipation of these transfers.

We will provide updated post orders to reflect this change and will be tracking impacts over the next few months, sharing data with the King County Corrections Guild. We have asked Guild leadership to inform what primary measures they think should be tracked and on what cadence.

Rebalancing our footprint is one of the measures that the department is taking to help ease the workload for our employees at the Seattle and Kent divisions, who continue to be stretched thin and to shoulder high levels of overtime. Your leadership team believes this course of action is the best way to ensure safety and security for everyone in our facilities.

DAJD leadership greatly appreciates all the work and added responsibility that all our employees have taken on in recent years. We are actively working on several fronts to restore more sustainable operations. As always, if you have ideas about how to improve our operations, please share those ideas with your chain of command. Together, we will weather these challenges and forge a better future as a result.

Respectfully,

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Allen Nance, Director

Department of Adult & Juvenile Detention