



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

February 14, 2023

Dr. Caitlin Robertson  
Office of the Corrections Ombuds  
P.O. Box 40009  
Olympia, Washington 98504

Re: Person-Centered Prevention and Management of Infectious Diseases Recommendations  
Office of the Corrections Ombuds Report

Dear Dr. Robertson:

The Department of Corrections (DOC) greatly appreciated the collaborative work that occurred with Office of the Corrections Ombuds (OCO) to produce an actionable, improvement-oriented review of the 20 COVID related deaths of persons, under our jurisdiction, between 2020 and 2022. While DOC COVID death rates did compare favorably to other corrections settings, we consider each life an opportunity to examine our actions and find ways to improve. We value your partnership in this effort.

I reviewed the report with Deputy Secretary Sean Murphy, Health Services Assistant Secretary David Flynn, and Chief Medical Officer MaryAnn Curl, MD. The Department agrees with this report in substance and intent. While it has been traditional that there might be some counterpoint to OCO produced reports, we have no areas in this report that require such a response.

Once again, thank you for your advocacy for persons in the care of DOC and for helping us to focus on getting it right.

Warm Regards,

Cheryl Strange  
Secretary

cc: Sean Murphy, Deputy Secretary  
MaryAnn Curl, M.D, Chief Medical Officer  
Dave Flynn, Assistant Secretary, Health Services Administration  
Melena Thompson, Director, Executive Policy Office

***“Working Together for SAFER Communities”***