



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

May 19, 2020

**TO:** All Incarcerated Individuals  
All Work Release Residents

**FROM:** Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

**SUBJECT: Line of Duty Death from COVID-19**

The Washington State Department of Corrections was notified that Correctional Officer Berisford Anthony Morse, 65 years of age, passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2020 from complications of COVID-19.

It is a tragedy to lose a member of our public safety community and correctional family and it is with deep sadness that we announce the loss of Correctional Officer Berisford Morse due to COVID-19. Our hearts go out to Officer Morse's grieving family.

Officer Morse had worked for the Department since October 2003. During his over 16 year career with Corrections, Mr. Morse worked as a correctional officer at Monroe Correctional Complex and as a non-permanent community corrections officer for seven months in 2013.

Officer Morse worked in the Minimum Security Unit (MSU) of the Monroe Correctional Complex. The MSU has had 14 positive cases of COVID-19 in the incarcerated population.

Officer Morse last worked at the facility on the morning of April 24. The facility was notified on April 27 that Morse had tested positive for COVID-19.

The Department is honoring Officer Morse's death as a line of duty death. Please take care of yourselves and each other.