



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

January 1, 2021

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: 
Julie Martin, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Washington State Penitentiary Second COVID-Related Incarcerated Death

On December 31, 2020, an individual incarcerated at Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) passed away at a local healthcare facility due to COVID-19 related illness.

The Department of Corrections offers its condolences to the family and friends of the decedent and remains committed to continue evaluating processes and following the [established COVID-19 screening, testing and infection control guidelines](#) as the Department works to contain and mitigate any spread of the virus.

Washington State Penitentiary continues to place living units on quarantine in an effort to limit transmission among the incarcerated population.

As a result of the growing number of COVID-19 positive cases, the facility began COVID-19 testing of all staff within the facility on a weekly basis in August and have tested all of the incarcerated individuals housed at the Medium Security Complex.

The Department of Corrections is committed to mitigating, containing and ceasing the spread of COVID-19 in its facilities and providing for the health and safety of the incarcerated, staff and the community.