



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

January 14, 2022

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
All Work Release Individuals

From: Cheryl Strange, Secretary 

Subject: Looking Forward

Greetings to you-

This is my first address to you in 2022—so it seems right to start off by wishing you happy New Year. 2022 has gotten off to a bumpy start with the Omicron variant, and it is highly contagious. Individuals that are vaccinated seem to fare much better than those that aren't. Please, if you aren't vaccinated, may I ask you please do so. Also, please consider getting a flu shot if you haven't already. Being incarcerated is hard enough, I want you to be as safe as you can be and that includes getting protected against highly transmissible viruses while you are in my care and custody.

As we move forward this year our clinical team, led by Dr. Lara Strick, will be working directly with the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control Congregate Care division to make the best health-based recommendations possible. As soon as it is safe to resume activities like programming and in-person visitation, we will.

I believe in a holistic approach to managing the department and all of us have a role to play. We can achieve our goal with the support, input, grace, gratitude, and patience of all involved. We will get through this together and we will achieve our goal for a safer Washington.

I know that this has not been easy for you, and I want you to know that I know. I take the impact this has on you very seriously, and no decision is made without thoughtful consideration.

Thank you and, remember, the best is yet to come.