



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

May 6, 2020

**TO:** All DOC Staff

**FROM:** Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

**SUBJECT: Nurses Month 2020: You Make a Difference**

I am proud to join the nation, the state of Washington, the American Nurses Association and the Washington State Nurses Association in recognizing today May 6, 2020, as National Nurses Day and May 2020 as [Nurses Month](#) with the theme: "Nurses Month: You Make a Difference."

Thank you to all of our nursing staff for your tireless efforts to provide for the health and well-being of over 16,000 individuals currently incarcerated in our prisons.

Now more than ever I see your dedication to your patients. In the face of a global pandemic, you continue to show your unwavering obligation to the health and safety of the incarcerated individuals you care for.

During this unprecedented time, our nursing staff continue to approach their work with efficiency, professionalism and integrity that honors our commitment to operate a safe and humane corrections system and partner with others to transform lives for a better Washington.

We are fortunate to have such knowledgeable nursing staff who provide guidance for best practices, care for patients and reassurance to those around them.

To honor the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, the World Health Assembly designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife to advance nurses' and midwives' vital position in transforming healthcare around the world.

As Florence Nightingale once said, "For the sick it is important to have the best." We are fortunate to have the best when it comes to our nursing staff. Your hard work, commitment and strength are recognized and appreciated.

Stay tuned for a feature story from DOC Communications on nursing staff's important role in Corrections and the unique challenges they face every day.

As always, thank you for all of your continued hard work and diligence.

***"Working Together for SAFER Communities"***