

[Office Header]

[Date]

[Head of Jail or Local Sheriff Name]

[Address]

Dear [Name/Title]:

On behalf of my office's clients now in your custody and the broader community, I am searching for all possible avenues to enable release of all people confined in the [county/city] jail who are eligible for release, with a particular focus on those who are older or immunocompromised. This will ensure that our most vulnerable populations are not inadvertently being exposed to a life-threatening illness.

One measure it seems in your power to take is to begin assessing all sentenced persons for immediate release, release to electronic monitoring, work release or any other available alternative to incarceration. Given the public health emergency, I ask that you exercise your powers as broadly as possible, releasing as many sentenced persons as you can.

As you know, on March 11, 2020, Governor Inslee announced new community strategies and social distancing plans and banned events with more than 250 people attending in Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties.¹ As the Governor says, "This is an unprecedented public health situation and we can't wait until we're in the middle of it to slow it down...We've got to get ahead of the curve. One main defense is to reduce the interaction of people in our lives." Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to your speedy response given the circumstances.

Sincerely,

[Public Defender or other title]

Cc: [Mayor of _____], [_____ County Executive]
[name] Director of _____ County Department of Public Health
[name] _____ County Prosecuting Attorney

¹ Governor's March 11, 2020 Proclamation 20-07, found at <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/20-07%20Coronavirus%20%28tmp%29.pdf> (last visited on [date])