Dear Sheriff LAST NAME,

Re: Protecting everyone who lives and works in COUNTY NAME correctional facilities from the coronavirus.

As a resident of COUNTY NAME, I am concerned about the particular threat that the coronavirus poses to people who live or work at our county’s correctional facilities. I know that in the environment of a jail it is often difficult for people to follow best practices of social distancing, frequent handwashing, and sanitizing of spaces.

I am writing to urge you to take further action to protect everyone who lives and works in the facilities that are under your supervision. In particular, I encourage you to:

* Coordinate with the district attorney, courts, and other agencies to reduce the intake of new people and encourage release of anyone who can be properly released so as to lower the total number of people in jail.
* Ensure everyone at the jail has access to supplies to keep themselves and their space clean.
* Routinely screen staff before and after shifts by taking body temperatures and asking about their current health.
* Avoid clustering people together by reducing or eliminating use of large dormitories, holding cells, double- or triple-celling.
* Ensure routine assessment of people’s health, and provide rapid access to appropriate medical care for those who are unwell.
* Provide people with information about coronavirus in their first language and opportunities to ask questions about disease prevention and response in their first language.

These recommended steps and others have been identified by a coalition of Oregon organizations, including the ACLU of Oregon, Disability Rights Oregon, the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Oregon Justice Resource Center, Partnership for Safety and Justice, and Sponsors, Inc. This group has written to the Oregon State Sheriffs Association with further details.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME