

Basic Guide for Decision-Makers

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Fighting the invisible threat in prisons

A Guide for Decision-Makers
on Worldwide Practices and Recommendations

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About this Document

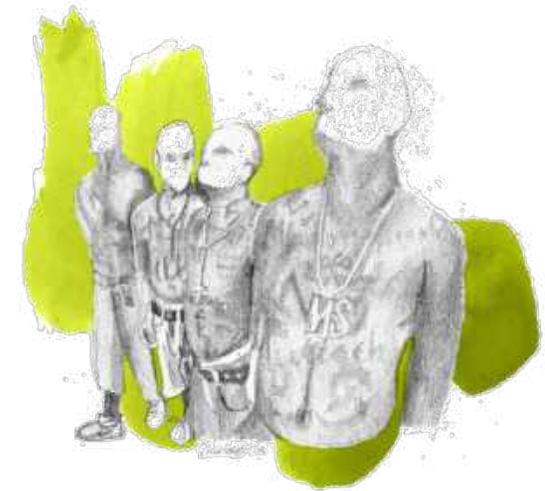
The **Basic Guide for Decision-Makers on Worldwide Practices and Recommendations** aims to support decision-makers working in the criminal justice sector in taking (and justifying) the necessary decisions to prevent and mitigate the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic in correctional settings.

Balancing the necessary measures to ensure inmates, staff and citizens safety in times of growing pressure is critical to overcoming the current crisis. This guide presents measures adopted by a substantial number of Penitentiary Administrations around the world and establishes a correspondence between nationally adopted strategies and the recommendations of globally recognised international organisations such as the [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO), and the Council of Europe [Committee for the Prevention of Torture](#) (CPT).

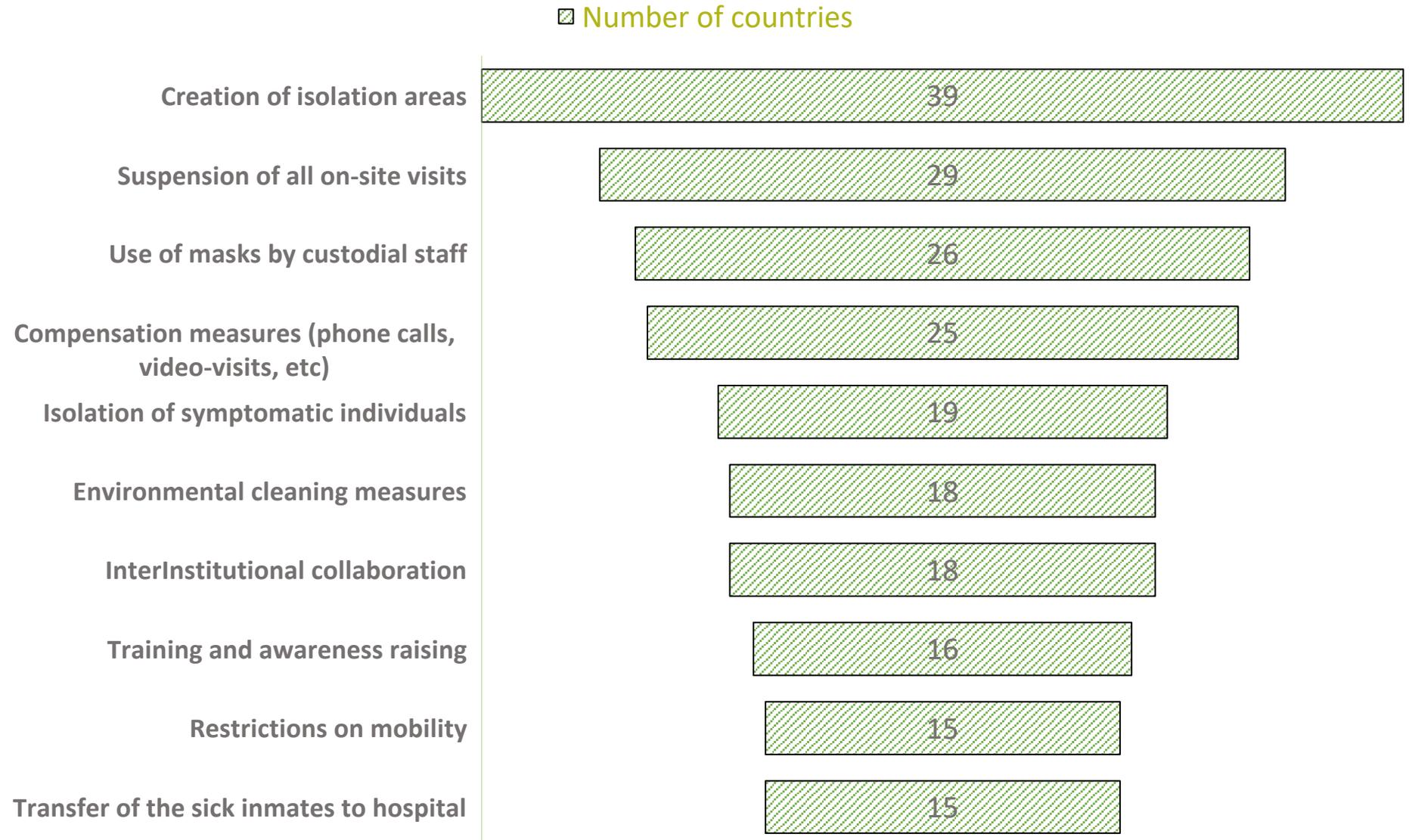
Documents and recommendations were analysed and complemented with public data available and information on national contexts compiled by the [ICPA International Corrections and Prisons Association](#), the [EUROPRIS European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services](#) complemented with recommendations provided by the [Penitentiary Regional Academy](#) (ARP).

Whereas the ICPA information offers a global view, EUROPRIS focuses on European reality, while ARP puts forward valuable information concerning Central America.

Please be aware that the fact that a specific country is not referenced as practising a particular procedure or recommendation does not mean that this procedure or recommendation is not being implemented in that national context. The discrepancy in data may be justified because different organisations are using different data collection methodologies, or because there is no public information available about a specific practice. For updated information please consult the ICPA and EUROPRIS respective websites.



Most Adopted Measures



Country Abbreviations

Countries

Argentina
New South Wales, Australia | Queensland, Australia | Victoria, Australia | Western Australia, Australia
Austria
Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Colombia
Costa Rica
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Ghana
Guatemala
Hong Kong
Israel
Kosovo
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Moldova
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Pakistan
Paraguay
Poland
Romania
Singapore
Slovak Republic
Spain
Sweden
Turkey
Uruguay
North Dakota United States of America | Oregon United States of America

Abbreviations

AR
NSW, AU | QLD, AU | Vic, AU | WA, AU
AT
BE
BR
BG
CA
CO
CR
CZ
DK
EE
FI
FR
GH
GT
HK
IL
XK
LV
LT
LU
MD
NL
NZ
NO
PK
PY
PL
RO
SG
SK
ES
SE
TR
UY
ND, USA | OR, USA

Interinstitutional Coordination and the Reduction of Overcrowding

COVID-19 in prisons

A complex challenge that requires effective interinstitutional cooperation between the different Criminal Justice, Health and Social Services, the Military and other relevant stakeholders.

Adopted measures

- **Planning and robust collaborative arrangements between sectors (health and justice or interior, as applicable)** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Reviewal of continuity and contingency plans** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Assessment of the need for Personal Protection Equipment and other essential suppliers in order to ensure continuity of provision and immediate availability** (WHO, 2020).
- **Redistribution of inmates in different prisons** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Government to allow two months reduction in sentence in less heinous crimes.**

Countries

BR¹; BG; CZE; GH; GT²; IT³; MD; ND, USA; NL; NO; NSW, AU; NZ; PY; OR, USA; PL; SK; UK; WA, AU; PT

BE; BR; BG; DK; ES; FI; HK; LU; MD; NO; NZ; PL; QLD, AU; SG; PT; SK, PT

AT; BE; BG; NZ; ND, USA; WA, AU; NSW, AU; TR; SG; SK; PT; LV⁴

FI

PK

¹ Campaigns for free services to the inmate population, through the coordination between the Judiciary System, Public Prosecutor's Office, Public Defenders and Bar Association, aiming at the implementation of non-custodial measures (ICPA: Departamento Penitenciário Nacional, 2020).

² Juvenile offenders system (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020)

³ Creation of a database of "Critical events", comprising the following details: inmates' date of entry, allocation, co-inmates sharing the cell, participation in group activities, if any, placement in healthcare confinement, actions and interventions carried out, possible hospitalisation; in what regards staff members, listing of type of service performed, contacts with other staff or other inmates, whether they are accommodated in barracks, actions and interventions carried out, possible hospitalisation. All this information is then forwarded to the crisis unit at the Headquarters (EUROPRIS: Department of Prison Administration of Italy, 2020).

⁴ At the entrance of the prison (EUROPRIS: Latvian Prison Administration, 2020).

- **Resort to non-custodial measures at all stages of the administration of criminal justice, including at the pre-trial, trial and sentencing as well as post-sentencing stages (especially for alleged offenders and inmates with low-risk profiles and caring responsibilities)** (ARP, CPT, WHO).
- **Resort to non-custodial measures at all stages of the administration of criminal justice, including at the pre-trial, trial and sentencing as well as post-sentencing stages (with preference given to pregnant women, women with dependent children and older inmates)** (ARP, 2020; CPT, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Resort to non-custodial measures, therefore suspending sentencing of people who are already chronically ill** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Reassess the need to continue involuntary placement of psychiatric patients** (CPT, 2020).

BR⁵; ES⁷; FI; GT⁸; IT⁹;
NO¹⁰; SE¹¹

XK, PT



Interinstitutional Coordination and the Reduction of Overcrowding

⁵ Resort to non-custodial measures in the form of house arrest to inmates who present the necessary legal criteria and family structure, with due monitoring through electronic bracelets, and careful assessment of the measure's impact regarding the overburdening of the public safety and health system (ICPA: Departamento Penitenciário Nacional, 2020).

⁶ Postpone the sentences of those convicted persons who come to serve their sentence from freedom. If the day to turn in has already been ordered the sentence can be postponed if the consent of the convicted person is obtained (EUOPRIS: Swedish Prison and Probation Service (SPPS), 2020).

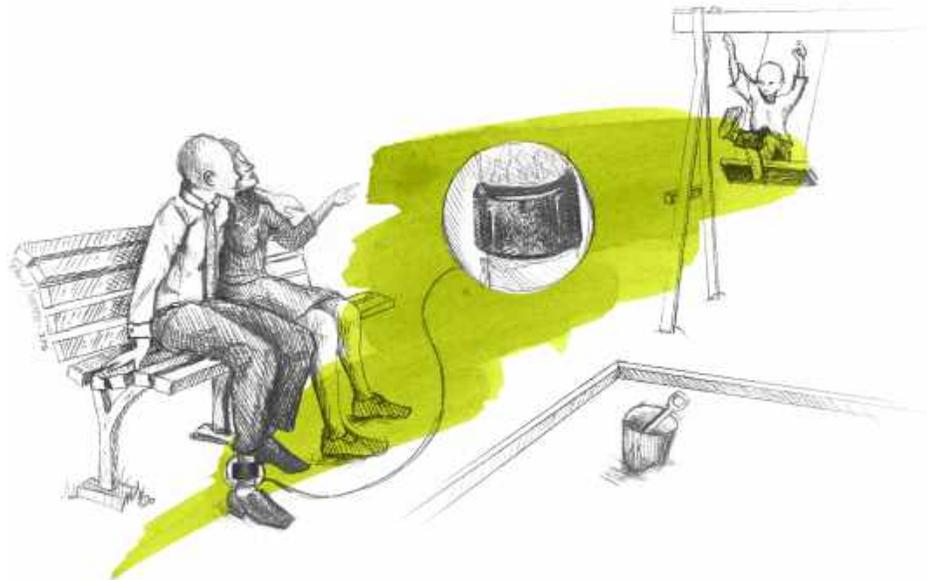
⁷ It is proposed to the courts and tribunals to suspend the plans for the execution of sentences and alternative measures. (EUOPRIS: General Directorate of Prison Administration, 2020).

⁸ Possibility of reduction of the sentence's length or anticipated liberty in the juvenile offenders' system (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020)

⁹ Until 30 June 2020, the sentence to imprisonment is to be executed, upon request, at the sentenced person's home or in other public or private healthcare center, where the sentence to be served is under 18 months, even if it is the remaining part of a longer sentence. Following offenders are excluded from that measure: persons sentenced for crimes of criminal mafia association, national and international terrorism, kidnapping for ransom, international drug trafficking; persons sentenced for crimes of domestic violence and harassments; habitual offenders; the inmates who participated in the recent riots in prisons. All offenders on home detention, except all minor offenders and those adult offenders who must serve a sentence up to six months, shall undergo electronic surveillance (EUOPRIS: Department of Prison Administration of Italy, 2020).

¹⁰ The summons of persons to serve their sentences in prison has been suspended (EUOPRIS: Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service, 2020).

¹¹ inmates who are not incarcerated but has been sentenced to prison are denied of entering any prison or remand prison to start serving time. Postpone the sentences of those convicted persons who come to serve their sentence from freedom. If the day to turn in has already been ordered the sentence can be postponed if the consent of the convicted person is obtained (EUOPRIS: Swedish Prison and Probation Service (SPPS), 2020).



- **Discharge or release to community care, wherever appropriate, residents of social care homes** (CPT, 2020).
- **Refrain, to the maximum extent possible, from detaining migrants** (CPT, 2020).
- **Inmates that have their sentences expired during the pandemic that display no symptoms of disease to be discharged** (ICPA, 2020). ND, USA
- **Inmates that have their sentences expire during the pandemic who are suffering from viral symptoms will be asked to voluntarily quarantine themselves, and stay at the facility past their discharge date, until they are well** (ICPA, 2020). ND, USA
- **Temporary suspension of judicial hearings, except urgent cases** (ARP, 2020). BR; GH; GT¹²; LV; NL; PK
- **Limitation of court hearing attendances** (ICPA, 2020). NL; SK; Vic, AU; WA, AU;
- **Usage of alternative strategies for indispensable or urgent judicial hearings (e.g. videoconference)** (ARP, 2020). BR; CZ¹³; EE; FR; LV; NL; PK; Vic, AU; PT
- **Control of probationers via phone calls** (EUOPRIS, 2020). ES
- **Postpone the enforcement of the administrative penalty —administrative arrest —irrespective of the limitation period for serving the sentence** (EUOPRIS, 2020). LV

¹² Juvenile offenders system (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020)

¹³ Courts and judges were asked to use videoconference options (possible in all 35 Czech prisons) as much as possible to prevent prisoner transfers to courts or judges coming into prisons (ICPA: The Czech Prison Service, 2020).

Interinstitutional Coordination and the Reduction of Overcrowding

Establish agreements partnerships with judiciary and health authorities

- Increase the use of video-conference for court hearings
- Increase the use of telemedicine consultations through video-conference
- Reduce all non-essentials transportation of inmates outside the prison facilities.

COVID-19 in prisons

As unnecessary transports create high risks of contagion, mobility must be sensibly pondered and strictly regulated.



COVID-19 in prisons

Coordination and command arrangements to facilitate rapid and consistent communication of information are of central importance for efficient situation analyses and decision-making (WHO). Furthermore, communication with inmates is critical do the adoption new and more restrictive measures.

Adopted measures

- **Train people in prison as soon as possible to understand general hygiene and ways of transmission and to make it clear that, if masks are to be used, this measure must be combined with hand hygiene and other IPC measures to prevent human-to-human transmission of COVID-19** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **All staff to be alert to the enhanced risk of COVID-19 infection in people in prisons and other places of detention who have a history of potential exposure, having travelled to, transited through or lived in high-risk areas in the last 14 days** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Persons deprived of their liberty to receive comprehensive information, in a language they understand, about any such measures** (ARP, 2020; CPT, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Production and diffusion of information to be developed and placed in prison common areas and in areas designated for legal visits and family visits (preventive measures, hygiene practices, disease signs and symptoms, access to local health care, use of masks for people who have respiratory symptoms, etc)** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).

Countries

BR; CO; EE; ES; GH; IL; LT; NL; NSW, AU; NZ; OR, USA; PK; QLD, AU; SK; TR; Vic, AU

BR; LT; LU; ND, USA; NSW, AU; OR, USA; SK; Vic, AU; PT; WA, AU

AT; BE; BR; CR; ES; FR; GH; IL; LT; PT; RO¹⁴; UY

BE; BG; BR; EE; PT; ES; GT¹⁵; HK; IL; LT; LU; NSW, AU; PY; RO; TR; WA, AU

¹⁴ Q&A between inmates and medical staff (ICPA: National Administration of Penitentiaries Romania, 2020).

¹⁵ Including juveniles system (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

- **Overall assessment of the local risk (community risk and risk within the prison)** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Notification of possible COVID-19 cases to responsible public health authorities** (WHO, 2020).
- **An assessment of any language or communication issues to be made and access to a language interpretation/translation service must be provided as soon as a possible** (WHO, 2020).
- **Keep posting in social media, radio, websites, information for the public and for the staff** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020)

BR; CO; CR; MD; ND,
USA; NSW, AU;
NZ; PY; UY

AR; BE; BR; EE; HK;
LT; MD; ND; NSW,
AU; PL; PT; Vic, AU;
WA, AU

MD

CA; EE; IL; LU; MD;
RO; QLD, AU



General Prevention Measures

COVID-19 in prisons

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 and, therefore, all staff and people in prisons and other places of detention should have comprehensive awareness of COVID-19 prevention strategies (WHO).

Adopted measures

- **Water, soap and single use towels to be available for handwashing; alcohol hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol is also an option if available** (WHO, 2020)
- **Physical distancing to be observed** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **All inmates to have single bed cells as soon as possible, in order to prevent the spread of infection** (EUROPRIS, 2020).
- **Prisons have stocks of food and other material** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020).
- **Pay attention to food variety in order to strengthen the immune system of the food offered to the convicts and detainees to prevent coronavirus infectiousness in prisons** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Allow to representatives of companies deliver goods and provide services only to ensure the basic functions and allow to continue to do repair work only to the representatives of companies with whom agreements have been signed** (EUROPRIS, 2020).

Countries

NSW, AU; NZ; PT; TR;
Vic, AU¹⁶

BE; CR; DK; EE¹⁷; ES; HK;
MD; NSW, AU; NO;
PK; RO; PT

NO¹⁸

CR¹⁹; CZE, FR

TR

LV

¹⁶ The provision of disinfectant wipes is also foreseen (ICPA: Corrections Victoria, 2020).

¹⁷ Open prison inmates can use a phone free of charge to contact prison officers (ICPA: Estonian Prison Service, 2020).

¹⁸ High security prisons, lower security prisons and halfway houses (EUROPRIS: Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service, 2020).

¹⁹ Creation of a special committee dedicated to food, hygiene and prevention measures (ARP: Sistema Penitenciário Costa Riqueño, 2020).

- **Provision of Emergency Response Kits for incidents involving blood or body substance spills** (ICPA, 2020) NSW, AU
- **Creation of a crisis team** (ARP, 2020) FI; MD; NO; PT
- **Wall-mounted liquid soap dispensers, paper towels and foot-operated pedal bins to be made available and accessible in key common areas (toilets, canteens, gyms...)** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020). HK; LT²⁰; NSW, AU; SK²¹; WA, AU²²
- **An air purifier with HEPA filter to be strategically located at some high-risk areas (ICPA: Hong Kong Correctional Services, 2020).** HK
- **Prisoner canteen (store) services are suspended (ICPA, 2020).** EE²³
- **Restrictions imposed on packages sent to prison** (ARP, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020) BE²⁴; EE²⁵; GT²⁶

²⁰ Protection measures against the virus should be stocked in places with easy access for the staff 24/7 (ICPA: Prison Department of Lithuania, 2020).

²¹ Provide hand disinfection products for all prison staff as well as for inmates performing the necessary activities within prison (ICPA: Corps of Prison and Court Guard of the Slovak Republic, 2020).

²² Handwashing material must be available throughout the work site and checked twice per day (ICPA: Department of Corrective Services Western Australia, 2020).

²³ Prison staff canteen will provide food in takeaway containers or the canteen is used by each unit's staff separately and the dining hall is disinfected in between

²⁴ Urgent package receipt is still to take place (EUROPRIS: Belgian Prison Service, 2020).

²⁵ Packages for inmates are admitted via Postal Service only (ICPA: Estonian Prison Service, 2020).

²⁶ Mandatory disinfection through fumigation. In Juvenile Corrections Centres only hygienic products are allowed (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

- **Stocking and provision of hygienic materials to inmates** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020). FR; PK²⁷; UY²⁸; XK²⁹
- **Provision and use of general-purpose detergent and disinfectant solutions that are virucidal and have been approved for use by the prison authorities** (WHO, 2020). CO; EE; ND, USA; HK³⁰; IL³¹; NSW, AU; TR; UY
- **Cleaning personnel will be provided fumigating equipment** (ARP, 2020). GH; UY
- **Ensuring proper cleaning of the prison environment** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020). AR; BE; BR; BG; CZ; CO; ES; HK³²; LT; LU; MD; NZ; RO; Vic, AU; NSW, AU; PT; TR; SK³³; XK

²⁷ Every inmate will be given neutral soap (ICPA: Rehabilitation Department, Government of Sindh, Pakistan, 2020).

²⁸ Every inmate will be given neutral soap (ICPA: Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación, 2020).

²⁹ Supplying prisons with hygienic material such as shampoos, soaps and hand sanitizers. This should be for inmates` purpose (ICPA: Kosovo Correctional Services, 2020).

³⁰ Increase intensive cleaning with diluted bleach water and fogging with disinfectants to sterilise day and night accommodation of PIC as well as staff areas (ICPA: Hong Kong Correctional Service, 2020).

³¹ “lots of disinfectants and cleaning agents” (ICPA: Israel Prison Services, 2020).

³² Increase intensive cleaning with diluted bleach water and fogging with disinfectants to sterilise day and night accommodation of PIC as well as staff areas (ICPA: Hong Kong Correctional Services, 2020).

³³ Including the purchase and placement of germicidal lamps in all prisons for the cleaning of the premises (air and surfaces disinfection by UV radiation (ICPA: Corps of the Prison Guard and Court Guard of the Slovak Republic, 2020).

- **Special attention to bathrooms** (ICPA, 2020) CO³⁴ ; NZ
- **Clothes, bedclothes, bath and hand towels, etc. to be cleaned using regular laundry soap and water or machine-washed at 60—90 °C with common laundry detergent** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020). FI; NSW, AU
- **Pre-trial detainees not be allowed to wear their own clothes for sanitation reasons** (ICPA, 2020). SK
- **Soap and water, together with personal towels to be supplied in rooms, cells and bathrooms night and day** (WHO, 2020). CO; GT³⁵; NSW, AU³⁶; WA, AU
- **Frequent ventilation of the air in all premises** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020). BG; MD
- **Temporary restriction of freedom of movement for inmates (cell doors closed)** (ICPA, 2020; ICPA, 2020). EE; NSW, AU; QLD, AU; RO; Vic, AU
- **Measurement of fever to all inmates going to be released just before their departure** (EUROPRIS, 2020) BE

³⁴ Should be cleaned twice a day (ICPA: Instituto Nacional Penitenciario y Carcelario, 2020).

³⁵ In the juvenile offenders' institutions (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

³⁶ Inmates are permitted to take a cup or other container of Fincol to their cell (ICPA: Corrective Services New South Wales, 2020).

Adopted measures

Countries

Prison Staff (work organisation, screening, etc)

COVID-19 in prisons
New challenges put forward by COVID-19 impose the adaptation and readjustment of the staff's organisational structure, in order to respond to the pandemic.

- **Staff (custodial and health-care workers) to be educated about standard precautions such as personal hygiene, respiratory etiquette, basic IPC measures, basic disease knowledge, including pathogen, transmission route, signs and clinical disease progression, as well as how to deal with a person suspected of having COVID-19 as safely as possible to prevent the infection from spreading and cleaning and disinfection prevention measures** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Staff is not allowed to travel abroad** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020)
- **Control and assessment of the staff by Doctors located in Correctional / Detention Center** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Every day the staff must sign a declaration saying that they don't have any symptom, that they haven't been next to an ill person and that they haven't been abroad in the last 14 days** (ICPA, 2020; ICPA, 2020).

AR, BR, BG; CO; ES; FI;
HK; LT; MD; NSW, AU;
PK; PY; SG; SK; TR; Vic, AU

FI; IL; NO; SE³⁷; SG

XK

PT; IL; N³⁸

³⁷ Only if strictly necessary (ICPA: Swedish Prison and Probation Service (SPPS), 2020).

³⁸ Sheets with information for healthcare professionals and for employees working in the reception/entry section have been developed (ICPA: Netherlands Custodial Institutions Agency, 2020).

- **Minimising social gathering among staff members and providing more personal space between individuals at staff canteen as far as practicable** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020). AT³⁹; HK; MD
- **Suspension of missions, events and meetings that require people to gather, except urgent ones** (ARP, 2020; ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020). PT; BR; ES; LT; LV⁴⁰; SK; TR
- **Extension of the shifts of the prison guards in order to reduce the swaps between shifts** (ARP, 2020). IL; IT; NO; XK
- **The staff has been reduced in order to restrain the number of persons circulating** (EUROPRIS, 2020). PT; AT⁴¹; ES; IL; LU; ND, USA⁴²
- **Redeployment of employees between correctional facilities. Additional costs related to work travel to be covered if the travel distance is reasonable** (EUROPRIS, 2020). NO

³⁹ Establishment of a staff group system, subdivided into small units, aiming at separating the guards from each other (EUROPRIS: Federal Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice, 2020).

⁴⁰ Stop the face-to-face meetings of citizens in the LPA central office and imprisonment places; organise interinstitutional meetings distantly (EUROPRIS: Latvian Prison Administration, 2020).

⁴¹ Monthly working hours are to be kept as low as possible by the planning department (EUROPRIS: Federal Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice, 2020).

⁴² Possibility of reduction up to 50 percent of the staff (ICPA: North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 2020).

- **Staff to mandatorily wash their hands with soap and water or antibacterial gel before beginning their shift** (ARP, 2020).
CO; GH; Vic, AU
- **Staff to consult occupational health services in their respective organisation if they have travelled or live in a high-risk community/area where COVID-19 is spreading** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
BR; CO; GH; IL; MD;
SK;
WA, AU
- **All prison staff subjected to an assessment (through measurement of fever) before they access the prison** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020).
AR; CO; CZ; EE; GH;
GT⁴³; HK; IL; LT⁴⁴; LU;
SG⁴⁵; SK; UY
- **Fragile agents will stay at home** (ARP, 2020).
PT; BR⁴⁶; FR⁴⁷ XK⁴⁸

⁴³ Constant monitoring of prison staff's body temperature in Juvenile Detention Centres (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

⁴⁴ Besides screening of incoming and outgoing persons and their belongings, the persons are subject to contactless temperature measurements, immediately responding to health complaints of persons being screened (ICPA: Prison Department of Lithuania, 2020).

⁴⁵ Staff at work must take temperature twice daily (ICPA: Singapore Prison Service, 2020).

⁴⁶ Older than 60 years old, suffering from chronic or respiratory illnesses; pregnant women (ICPA: Departamento Penitenciario Nacional, 2020)

⁴⁷ Pregnant, staff with severe disease or on special treatment (EUROPRIS: Department of Prisons of France, 2020).

⁴⁸ Staff who are at an older age (ICPA: Kosovo Correctional Service, 2020).

- **Possibility to work from home** (ARP, 2020).
- **Enlistment of new staff members or changes in the roles of those already employed may take place in emergency cases** (ICPA, 2020; ICPA, 2020).
- **Early conclusion of the training basic courses which the newly recruited staff is attending** (EUROPRIS, 2020).
- **Suspension of recruitment and transfer of staff and all qualification upgrading** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Professionals involved in triage activities and who accompany inmates in isolation must avoid circulating in wings with no suspects or confirmed cases** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Suspension of holiday and licence requests by prison staff** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020).

PT; CZ⁴⁹; DK⁵⁰; EE⁵¹; ES;
FI⁵²;
GT⁵³; NSW, AU⁵⁴; SE;
UY

CO; ND, USA

IT; LV

LT⁵⁵

BR; Vic, AU

PT; BR; NO

⁴⁹ The Headquarters uses home office for most of its employees (ICPA: The Czech Prison Service, 2020).

⁵⁰ To the extent possible, non-critical workers (e.g. in administration) are working from home (EUROPRIS: Department of Prisons and Probation of Denmark, 2020).

⁵¹ All pregnant prison officers and workers, with no exceptions, must stay home immediately and do distance work (ICPA: Estonian Prison Service, 2020).

⁵² All staff members must work from home if it is possible. This concerns mainly administrative staff (EUROPRIS: Criminal Sanctions Agency Finland, 2020).

⁵³ Caring and education personnel can work from home and provide their services through technological alternatives (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

⁵⁴ If working from home is not feasible, paid leave will apply (ICPA: Corrective Services New South Wales, 2020).

⁵⁵ Stop physical tests for candidates planned to admit into service (EUROPRIS: Latvian Prison Administration, 2020).

Use of Personal Protective Equipment

COVID-19 in prisons

The vulnerability of prison and healthcare staff, as well as inmates themselves, must be addressed by the appropriate use of suitable protective equipment, according to international standards and recommendations.

Adopted measures

- **Instructions about the correct use of PPE given to staff and people in prison** (WHO, 2020).
- **Ensuring safe waste management** (WHO, 2020).
- **Staff wears medical masks between workplaces and residences** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Provision and use of medical masks to custodial staff (for activities that involve close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19)** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Provision and use of disposable full gowns to custodial staff (for activities that involve close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19)** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Provision and use of disposable eye protection (e.g. face shield or goggles) for custodial staff (for activities that involve close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19)** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Provision and use of disposable gloves for custodial staff** (ARP, 2020).
- **Cleaning personnel wears disposable gloves when cleaning or handling surfaces, clothing or linen soiled with body fluids, and performs hand hygiene before and after removing gloves** (WHO, 2020).

Countries

PT; EE; GH; HK; MD;
NSW, AU; NZ

CO; NZ; NSW, AU

HK

PT; BE; BG; CZ¹²²; EE; GT;
HK; IT; LT¹²³; LU;
MD; ND, USA;
NSW, AU; NZ¹²⁴;
PY; RO; SG; SK; TR;
Vic, AU

EE; GT; LT¹²⁵; ND, USA;
NZ¹²⁶; PY; RO

BE; BG; CZ; EE; GT; IT;
LT¹²⁷; ND, USA; NSW,
AU; NZ¹²⁸; RO

CZ¹²⁹; UY¹³⁰; GT¹³¹; PY;
Vic; AU

CO; GT; LU; NZ; UY¹³²

¹²² The PS has been constantly working on purchasing, getting and supplying more protective material, however, they are limited firstly by the market and secondly by what the government can supply (ICPA: The Czech Prison Service, 2020).

¹²³ Prison officers responsible for the isolation of a potentially infected person should be wearing appropriate protective clothing (ICPA: Prison Department of Lithuania, 2020).

¹²⁴ The appropriate level of protection should be chosen for the degree of risk of infection remaining after other control measures have been take

¹²⁵ Prison officers responsible for the isolation of a potentially infected person should be wearing appropriate protective clothing (ICPA: Prison Department of Lithuania, 2020).

¹²⁶ The appropriate level of protection should be chosen for the degree of risk of infection remaining after other control measures have been taken (ICPA: New Zealand Department of Corrections, 2020).

¹²⁷ Prison officers responsible for the isolation of a potentially infected person should be wearing appropriate protective clothing (ICPA: Prison Department of Lithuania, 2020).

¹²⁸ The appropriate level of protection should be chosen for the degree of risk of infection remaining after other control measures have been taken (ICPA: New Zealand Department of Corrections, 2020).

¹²⁹ Staff who manages packages that are sent to the penitentiary institution or that working at entries/ gates will wear masks, gloves and other hygiene elements considered pertinent (ICPA: the Czech Prison Service, 2020).

¹³⁰ Staff who manages packages that are sent to the penitentiary institution or that working at entries/ gates will wear masks, gloves and other hygiene elements considered pertinent (ICPA: Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación, 2020).

¹³¹ Staff who manages packages that are sent to the penitentiary institution or that working at entries/ gates will wear masks, gloves and other hygiene elements considered pertinent (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

¹³² Cleaning personnel should wear masks when cleaning common areas (ICPA: Instituto Nacional Penitenciario y Carcelário, 2020).

- **Provision and use of medical mask for health-care staff** (WHO, 2020). PT; BR; CZ; EE; ND, USA; SK
- **Provision and use of full gowns for health-care staff** (WHO, 2020). EE; ND, USA; SK
- **Provision and use of gloves for health-care staff (WHO, 2020).** CZ; EE; ND, USA; SK
- **Provision and use of eye protection for health-care staff (e.g. single-use goggles or face shield)** (WHO, 2020). CZ; EE; ND, USA; SK
- **Provision and use of hand hygiene supplies for health-care staff (WHO, 2020).** PT; EE; ND, USA
- **Health-care staff to use respirators only for aerosol-generating procedures** (WHO, 2020). EE; ND, USA
- **All PPE to be changed after each interaction with a suspected or confirmed case** (WHO, 2020).
- **Use of masks and gloves by members of staff at the entrance/reception where inmates are accepted** (EUROPRIIS, 2020 ICPA, 2020). IT; XK
- **All persons in custody required to put on surgical mask and observe strict cough etiquette (cough and sneeze into the elbow) and hand hygiene (wash hands regularly with soap and water) while attending court, medical appointment and visit** (EUROPRIIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020). HK; UK; Vic, AU; WA, AU¹³³
- **Supply of sterile masks and gloves to all inmates/detainees** (ICPA, 2020). XK

¹³³ If they are infected with coronavirus or if they are having symptoms (ICPA: Department of Corrective Services Western Australia, 2020).

- **inmates who are healthy not wear masks** (ICPA, 2020). WA, AU
- **Suspected inmates who do not have confirmed coronavirus within the unit encouraged to wear masks when outside their rooms** (ICPA, 2020). Vic, AU
- **Suspect cases must wear personal protective equipment** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020) BE; LT¹³⁴; WA, AU
- **Persons in custody working at Kitchen, Laundry, Hospital and Reception Office, etc. to put on surgical mask** (ICPA, 2020). HK
- **Isolated persons to wear protective face masks** (EUROPRIS, 2020) PT; LT

¹³⁴ Isolated persons should be wearing protective face masks (ICPA: Prison Department of Lithuania, 2020).

Visitors, Volunteers, Contractors, Lawyers

COVID-19 in prisons

A strict risk analysis of any outside contacts must be carried out so that contagion is limited.

Adopted measures

- **Assessment of visitors' health through the measurement of fever** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Assessment of visitors' health through a self-reporting questionnaire to exclude symptoms** (WHO, 2020).
- **All visitors to provide their travel history** (ICPA, 2020).
- **All visitors required to wear surgical masks** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020).
- **Preference for box visits** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020).
- **Visitors to wash their hands with disinfectant gel before entering the prison, which must be overseen by prison staff** (ARP, 2020).
- **Visits to be organised in shifts, in order to avoid the agglomeration of people in the different sectors** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Visitors over 60 years old, visitors who suffer from chronic illnesses, pregnant women and minors will not allowed to visit** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Informing visitors about the importance of not attending the establishment if they feel unwell** (WHO, 2020).
- **Visit rooms and visit boxes to be cleaned and disinfected frequently** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020).

Countries

AR; BG; BR; GH; HK;
NZ; PL; SG; UY; Vic, AU;
WA, AU

MD; Vic, AU; WA, AU

GH; NSW, AU; Vic, AU;
WA, AU

HK; IT; SK; TR⁵⁶

IT⁵⁷; Vic, AU

GH; HK; NZ; UY

UY

BR⁵⁸; UY

BG; BR; EE; HK; NSW,
AU

EE; HK; NZ; IT; TR; Vic,
AU

⁵⁶ In specific, lawyers who must enter in obligatory cases (ICPA: General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, 2020).

⁵⁷ inmates undergoing the Maximum-Security regime will continue to receive visits; such visits are in premises separated from the visitors by a glass partition (EUROPRIS: Department of Prison Administration of Italy, 2020).

⁵⁸ Minors are not allowed to visit if showing signs of flue (ICPA: Departamento Penitenciario Nacional, 2020).

COVID-19 in prisons
Compensation measures
should be put in place to
reduce pressure and anxiety
that may endanger the
security of correctional
settings.

- **Temporary restriction of on-site prison visits** (WHO, 2020).
- **Temporary suspension of on-site prison visits** (ARP, 2020).

BR⁵⁹; CO; DK⁶⁰; GH⁶¹;
IT⁶²; LV⁶³; PK

PT; BE⁶⁴; BG; BR; CR; CZ⁶⁵; ES; EE⁶⁶; FI⁶⁷;
FR; GH; GT⁶⁸; HK⁶⁹; IL; IT; LT⁷⁰; LU;
MD; NL⁷¹; ND, USA; NO⁷²; PL; PY; QLD,
AU⁷³; RO; SE; SK⁷⁴; TR; UK; XK

⁵⁹ In States or regions where there has been confirmation of a COVID-19 case, suspension of visits by risk groups (ICPA: Departamento Penitenciario Nacional, 2020).

⁶⁰ Visits from religious units or close relatives, are advised to take place by phone (EUOPRIS: Department of Prisons and Probation of Denmark, 2020).

⁶¹ Visits will be limited to one person per week per prisoner (ICPA: Ghana Prison Services, 2020).

⁶² Visits to inmates in healthcare confinement: direct contacts with inmates under health confinement are prohibited. Protected meetings are allowed (in premises fully partitioned with glasses and with different ways of entry) as well as remote contacts (EUOPRIS: Department of Prison Administration of Italy, 2020).

⁶³ Restrict visits of third persons, except with a permit of the head of institution with a view to provide the core functions (EUOPRIS: Latvian Prison Administration, 2020).

⁶⁴ All types of visits are suspended for 14 days, namely group visits and media initiatives. All visitors who must meet with the inmates for professional reasons may still access the prison, such as individuals attached to police, security and information services, as well as judicial authorities, namely lawyers, judges and therapeutic aid personnel (EUOPRIS: Belgian Prison Service, 2020).

⁶⁵ This does not affect prosecuting authorities, but they must wear masks (ICPA: The Czech Prison Service, 2020).

⁶⁶ Except visits by criminal defence counsels, representatives who are advocates, ministers of religion, notary and consular officers of country of nationality to inmates (ICPA: Estonian Prison Service, 2020).

⁶⁷ Except police officers and attorneys' meetings (ICPA: Criminal Sanctions Agency of Finland, 2020).

⁶⁸ Suspension of family visits in adult corrections centres, as well as juvenile corrections centres (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

⁶⁹ Suspension of in-centre rehabilitation activities rendering by NGOs (ICPA: Hong Kong Correctional Services, 2020).

⁷⁰ Defenders' visits are allowed in exceptional cases when they are necessary for the protection of human rights and failure to do so would constitute a serious and irreversible violation of human rights (Prison Department of Lithuania, 2020).

⁷¹ Only visits related to the judicial procedures that are necessary can take place (ICPA: Netherlands Custodial Institutions Agency, 2020).

⁷² Exceptions can be made under extraordinary circumstances, but only if the prison governor decides that a visit is strictly necessary. Visits from defence lawyers, police and embassies will still take place (EUOPRIS: Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service, 2020).

⁷³ Specifically personal visits; legal, service provider or official visits will be conducted in accordance with advice from the Chief Health Officer, particularly with regards to social distancing (Queensland Corrections Services, 2020).

⁷⁴ Postponement of the entry of representatives of the law enforcement agencies, as well as the activities they were meant to perform, only when it is necessary for legal or other reasoned reasons (Corps of Prison and Court Guards Slovak Republic, 2020).

COVID-19 in prisons
Compensation measures
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reduce pressure and anxiety
that may endanger the
security of correctional
settings.

- **Alternative measures to compensate the lack of contact with the outside world (e.g. enlargement of length of time for phone calls, introduction of video conferencing, video-visitation, Skype for family members, etc.)** (ICPA, 2020; ARP, 2020; CTP, 2020).
- **All sites to maintain sufficient supplies of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and face masks in the visiting's room** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Juveniles in Correctional Institutions for Juvenile Offenders still receive visits from their parents or legal guardians** (ICPA, 2020).

PT; BE⁷⁵; FR⁷⁶; EE⁷⁷; ES⁷⁸;
DK⁷⁹; FI; GT; IT⁸⁰; LT⁸¹;
LV⁸²; MD⁸³; NL; NSW, AU⁸⁴;
NO⁸⁵; PL⁸⁶; PK; PY⁸⁷; QLD,
AU; RO; SK⁸⁸; SE⁸⁹; UK⁹⁰;
Victoria, AU⁹¹; XK⁹²; WA, AU

EE; NZ; TR; UK

NL

⁷⁵ As compensation, all detainees will receive a phone credit of 20 euros (EUOPRIS: Belgian Prison Service, 2020).

⁷⁶ The following measures have been contemplated as compensation: TV: free for each detainee during the crisis Phone credits : 40c/month for each detainee during the crisis (corresponds to more than extra 11h of phone call in France / 5h to a cell phone); activation of a new vocal message service: message accessible through a dedicated line, with personal ID numbers; messages will be left by family members; detainees in situation of poverty: we double the usual compensation from 20c to 40c / month (it concerns in ordinary times detainees with less than 50c / month: we extend the limit to detainees with less than 100c / month). It considers the fact that workshops, vocational trainings are stopped and that family pecuniary supports are more difficult (EUOPRIS: Department of Prisons of France, 2020).

⁷⁷ Private phone calls are enabled at least once a week (ICPA: Estonian Prison Service, 2020).

COVID-19 in prisons
Compensation measures should be put in place to reduce pressure and anxiety that may endanger the security of correctional settings.

⁷⁸ Increase the number of phone calls allowed to inmates (between 10 to 15) (ARP: General Directorate of Prison Administration, 2020).

⁷⁹ The Danish Prison and Probation Service has introduced compensating measures concerning extended access to make phone calls and will supply prisons with video game consoles for inmates to borrow (EUROPRIS: Department of Prisons and Probation of Denmark, 2020).

⁸⁰ inmates assigned to the Medium and High security level are authorised to communicate with their families through electronic mail. High security inmates are immediately authorised to have contacts with their families through authorised mobile phones numbers. They are allowed to use the Skype for business to make video calls with their family members who are entitled to visits. Video talks of inmates with defence counsels are always allowed through Skype for business. The procurement of more than 1,600 mobile phones and the next purchase of 1,600 more by the Penitentiary Administration. The possibility to make telephone calls also to mobile phone numbers. The increase in the telephone calls, beyond the limits set by the legislation currently in force, free of charge for all inmates. The remote conversation between inmates and their relatives will be made through Skype video-connection as well as through video-calls between mobile phones. The possibility to have video talks free of charge for all inmates, even belonging to High Security category (EUROPRIS: Department of Prison Administration of Italy, 2020).

⁸¹ Distance communication or communication by other remote means to be used when/if possible (Prison Department of Lithuania, 2020).

⁸² Determine that, with a permission of the Head of LPA imprisonment place, the additional telephone calls and video calls may be allocated to inmates (EUROPRIS: Latvian prison Administration, 2020).

⁸³ Online meetings (EUROPRIS, National Administration of Penitentiaries, 2020)

⁸⁴ Establishing communication strategies for inmates, staff and visitors (Corrective Services New South Wales, 2020).

⁸⁵ Free call-hours and digital visits (EUROPRIS: Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service, 2020).

⁸⁶ More frequent phone conversations and watching TV (ICPA: Poland Central Board of Prison Service, 2020).

⁸⁷ Videoconferences are being used for maintaining family contact (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Paraguayo, 2020).

⁸⁸ In Slovakia, the costs connected with making phone calls are borne by inmates. In the view of above mentioned and after intervention of the Corps, the operator (company) providing telephoning for inmates, decided to provide one-time credit in the amount of 2 (approximately 20 minutes of calling) to all inmates recorded in system of the Corps. Provided credit is valid from 17 March 2020 and inmates can use it until the time when the visits can be again performed. In case that the inmate does not use this credit, the rest of it shall not be paid to the inmate after his release from prison (Corps of Prison and Court Guard of the Slovak Republic, 2020).

⁸⁹ Swedish Prison and Probation Service (SPPS) is bearing all the costs for phone calls.

⁹⁰ Prison Voicemail Service or using the email service (EUROPRIS: Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, 2020).

⁹¹ For contact with legal representatives (Corrections Victoria, 2020).

⁹² Allow inmates to call as per need and installing Skype Virtual Communication, so that inmates/detainees can communicate with their families (Kosovo Correctional Service, 2020).

Evaluate the possibility for expanded secure communications

Family, Community, Lawyers

More opportunities to call home

Longer phone calls

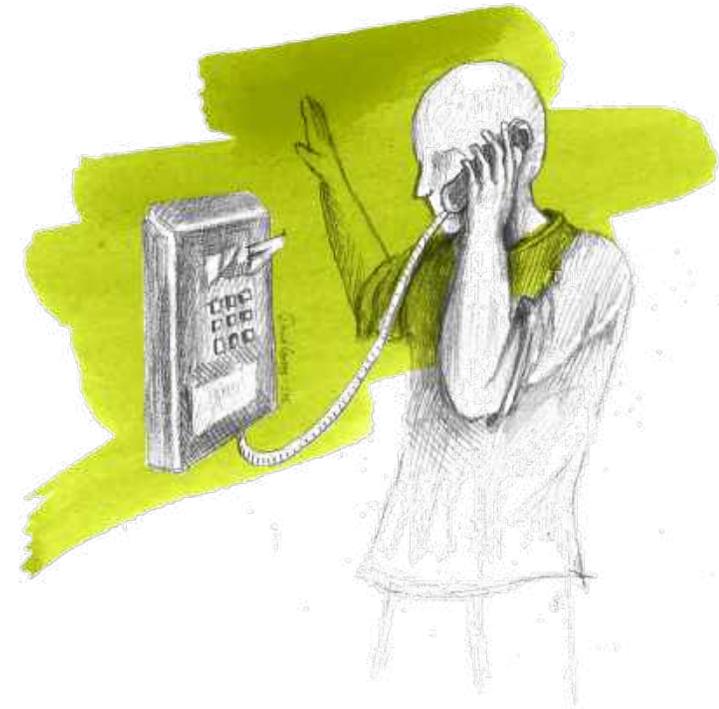
Video-visitation and video-calls

Reduction of tension and conflicts

Contribute to the reduction of contraband of illegal phones
(crime, debt, violence)

COVID-19 in prisons

Compensation measures should be put in place to reduce pressure and anxiety that may endanger the security of correctional settings.



Education, Training and Work

COVID-19 in prisons

While bearing in mind the importance of education, training and work activities for the rehabilitation of the inmate, these must be coherently analysed and adapted to prevent the propagation of the virus. Compensation measures, using available technology when possible, should be adopted.

Adopted measures

Countries

- **Continuation of the ongoing school and education courses, final exams and tests: interviews between teachers and detained students are allowed through videoconference and Skype - valid for inmates assigned to the Medium and High security level** (EUROPRIS, 2020).
IT
- **Suspension of volunteer services and programs such as in-centre rehabilitation activities** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020).
PT; BE; HK; LV; LU; ND, USA
- **Inmates who are no longer able to work due to the situation are offered employment, or if they are affected by plant closures, they will receive compensation** (EUROPRIS, 2020).
AT
- **External employment of the inmates is significantly reduced** (ICPA, 2020)
PL; LV¹¹⁰; RO¹¹¹; SK¹¹²
- **Female prison is charged with the production of masks** (EUROPRIS, 2020).
LT
- **Suspension of religious services** (ICPA, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020).
PT; BE; BR; FR; ND, USA; UY;
- **Suspension of educational and training activities** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020).
PT; BR; EE¹¹³; ES¹¹⁴; FR; LU; LV; MD; SK; TR; UY
- **The daily one-hour open airtime is cancelled for the time being, except in the mother and child unit** (ICPA, 2020)
EE
- **Prioritization of open-air activities** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020).
BE¹¹⁵; BR; FR¹¹⁶; UY

¹¹⁰ Before attending the LPA imprisonment place to request from third persons (including representatives of companies (also the ones who employ inmates) to submit a written confirmation that they have not visited Covid-19 states and territories, had no contact with Covid-19 sufferers or contact persons. Organise the implementation of the general and professional programmes distantly (EUROPRIS: Latvian Prison Administration, 2020).

¹¹¹ Completely cancelled (ICPA: National Administration of Penitentiaries Romania, 2020).

¹¹² Depending on the decision of the Prison Governor, after an assessment of the prisoner's health through the measurement of fever, when learning and arriving at the prison; inmates must use face masks or any other protective equipment necessary for works; minimised possibility of contact between the inmates and staff of the cooperating entities. In some cases, the Corps sold face masks to the cooperating contact with inmates. Cooperating entities were also asked to ensure the availability of disinfectants. The Corps shall intensively control the compliance with increased sanitary principles in external workplaces (ICPA: Corps of Prison and Court Guard Slovak Republic, 2020).

¹¹³ Individual (one to one) programs and activities continue (ICPA: Estonian Prison Service, 2020).

¹¹⁴ In general, organised activities with the participation of external agents have been suspended. Other activities depend on the prison and its facilities (EUROPRIS: General Directorate of Prison Administration of Spain, 2020).

¹¹⁵ Groups in out-door activities, which will be longer, must be smaller and remain constant in their composition (EUROPRIS: Belgian Prison Service, 2020).

¹¹⁶ Continuation of daily walk and outdoor sports for limited number of detainees (EUROPRIS: Department of Prisons of France, 2020).

COVID-19 in prisons

While bearing in mind the importance of education, training and work activities for the rehabilitation of the inmate, these must be coherently analysed and adapted to prevent the propagation of the virus. Compensation measures, using available technology when possible, should be adopted.

- **Suspension of all work activities** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020).
- **Suspension of all activities which involves the agglomeration and proximity between inmates** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020).
- **Organise individually the mental care and leisure activities where third persons are not involved** (ARP, 2020; EUROPRIS, 2020).
- **Prisons establish clean-up crews made up of inmates** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Counselling activities (educational, social, psychological) in order to raise awareness, to accept strict hygiene measures, and to limit the spread of the virus** (ARP, 2020).
- **Community service activities to be negotiated with the service places where there are vulnerable groups (sick and elderly people)** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Activities which are not necessary for everyday functions of prisons are suspended** (ICPA, 2020).

PT; BE; BR; ES¹¹⁷;
FI¹¹⁸; GH;
PL¹¹⁹; SK; TR

PT; BR; BG; DK¹²⁰; LU;
UY

ES; GT¹²¹; LV

GH; UY

RO; CR

FI; NO

PT; BG; EE

¹¹⁷ Except production of masks and sanitary protecting material (EUROPRIS: General Directorate of Prison Administration of Spain, 2020).

¹¹⁸ Activity allowance and the salary paid in open prisons will be paid to inmates even if the activity is suspended because of the coronavirus (ICPA: Criminal Sanctions Agency Finland, 2020).

¹¹⁹ Excluding the production of face masks and protective suits as well as food production (ICPA: Poland Central Board of Prison Service, 2020).

¹²⁰ Most activities are currently closed to minimise risks of the virus spreading. Activities are locally carried out in minor groups etc. regarding the general situation. Following the Danish government's demand to not be gathered more than 10 people outside, the prison staff is striving towards having a maximum of 10 inmates gathering as well (EUROPRIS: Department of Prisons and Probation of Denmark, 2020).

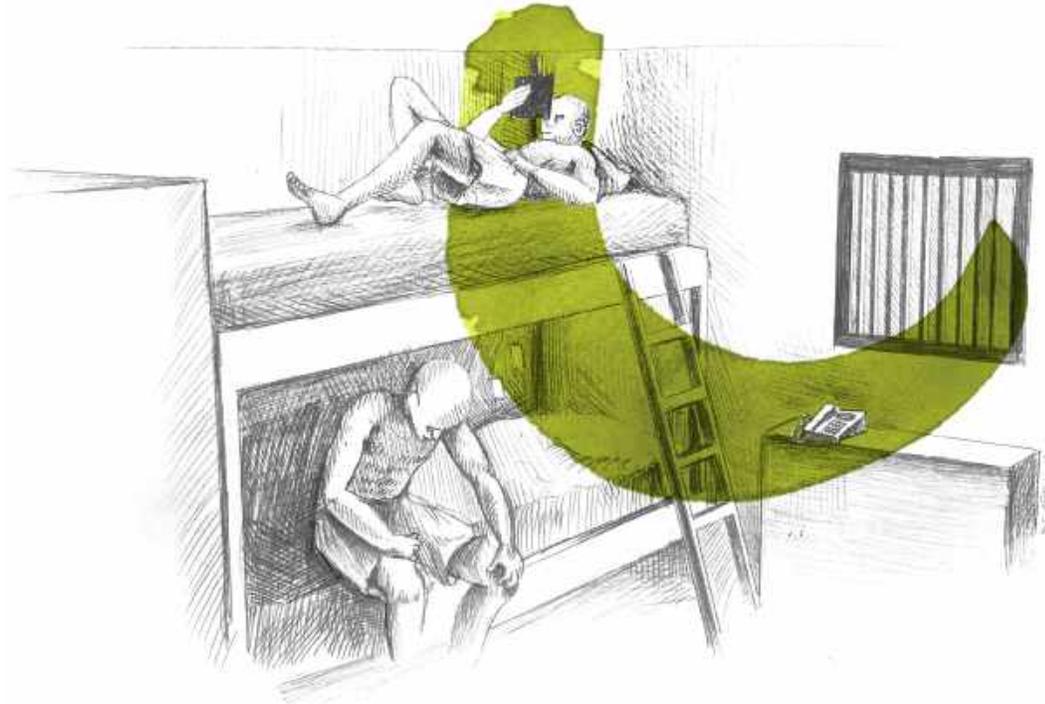
¹²¹ In the juvenile offenders' system (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

COVID-19 in prisons

Prison activities such as the ones related to education and prison work contribute to reducing potentially dangerous behaviour and conflicts, are an opportunity for prisoners to gain employment skills and to regain or learn the ability to be engaged in a structured work routine, as well as an opportunity to generate income.

The use of technology enhanced learning should be explored

- Increase learning opportunities (e-learning)
- Connection to the community (NGOs, training, housing, employment)
- Reduction of tensions and conflicts



New Intake Screening

COVID-19 in prisons

Ensuring the protection detainees' health and wellbeing is fundamentally dependent on a holistic approach to new intakes to support the continued safe operation of prisons.

Adopted measures

- **Convicts and detainees suspected of Coronavirus not be sent to prisons before observation, evaluation and treatment at the hospital** (ICPA, 2020).
- **New arrivals and returnees from parole are kept in isolation for 14 days** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020)
- **Screening at point of entry to prison** (collection of information on any history of fever, cough and/or shortness of breath or other respiratory tract symptoms, measurement of fever, patients' travel history and possible contact with confirmed in the last 14 days) (ARP, 2020 ; WHO, 2020).
- **Particular attention to be paid to persons with contagious diseases** (WHO, 2020).
- **Establishing a procedure for immediate isolation of suspected cases** (WHO, 2020).
- **Suspension of new arrivals** (ARP, 2020).
- **A list of all new inmates as well as those returning to prison to be sent daily to the prison's medical department, indicating their body temperature** (EUROPRIS, 2020).
- **It is preferable that only well inmates from non-quarantined units are transferred between custodial facilities as far as possible** (ICPA, 2020).

Countries

TR

BG; CZ; EE; ES; GH⁹³; IT; PK; SG⁹⁴; SK; TR; Vic, AU⁹⁵

PT; AR; BE⁹⁶; BR; HK; IT⁹⁷; SG; SK⁹⁸; TR; Vic, AU; WA, AU

CR⁹⁹; NO¹⁰⁰; PY¹⁰¹

PT; BE; CZ; NO; Vic, AU

DK; ES; FI¹⁰²; LV¹⁰³; ND, USA¹⁰⁴; NL¹⁰⁵; NO¹⁰⁶; SE

BE

Vic, AU

⁹³ 10-14 days (ICPA: Ghana Prison Services, 2020).

⁹⁴ With their temperature measured twice a day (ICPA: Singapore Prison Service, 2020).

⁹⁵ Whereas a prisoner with CVS or coronavirus should be quarantined on arrival at the receiving site until 14 days post symptom onset, a well prisoner transferred from a quarantined unit should wear a mask for 14 days post transfer and be monitored closely for the onset of symptoms (Corrections Victoria, 2020).

⁹⁶ Determination of a specific area for fever measurement where the thermometer is also to be kept (EUROPRIS: Belgian Prison Service, 2020).

⁹⁷ Such examination will occur, where possible, in the tensile structure outside the prisons (EUROPRIS: Department of Prison Administration of Italy, 2020).

⁹⁸ Entry medical screening shall be performed as soon as possible; in case there is no physician in prison in that time, authorised prison officer shall ensure the execution of personal search and measurement of body temperature (Corps of Prison and Court Guards of the Slovak Republic, 2020).

⁹⁹ Special attention to older people (ARP, Sistema Penitenciario Costa Riqueño, 2020)

¹⁰⁰ Shall be excluded from company with other inmates (EUROPRIS: Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service, 2020).

¹⁰¹ Vulnerable groups (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Paraguayo, 2020).

¹⁰² Prisons would not receive convicted persons whose sentence is a maximum of six month or a conversion sentence for unpaid fines (ICPA: Criminal Sanctions Agency of Finland, 2020).

¹⁰³ Postpone the transfer and takeover of persons convicted and detained abroad for the further execution of imprisonment or detention in the territory of the Republic of Latvia (EUROPRIS: Latvian Prison Administration, 2020).

¹⁰⁴ In case of a confirmed case (ICPA: North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 2020).

¹⁰⁵ In all custodial institutions new entries will be limited to prevent infections with the virus. People that have been convicted for crimes with a relatively short sentence (less than 3 months) can be summoned later to serve their sentence (ICPA: Netherlands Custodial Institutions Agency, 2020).

¹⁰⁶ Concerning prisons with lower security and halfway house. The intake of convicted persons to high security prisons shall be reduced to a minimum (EUROPRIS: Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service, 2020).

- **Efforts to be made to keep new arrivals housed together, whenever possible** (EUOPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020)
- **In the cases where the healthcare confinement of the inmate is ordered, it will be enforced by placing the inmate in a specific wing (in a single cell, with in-cell toilet, under the ordinary precautions of healthcare confinement)** (EUOPRIS, 2020).

PT; BG; BR; CZ; EE;
HK; IL;
LU¹⁰⁷; ND, USA

IT

¹⁰⁷Incoming inmates are being isolated and tested before they are being transferred to another section of the prison (EUOPRIS: Department of Prisons of Luxembourg, 2020).

Transport

COVID-19 in prisons

As unnecessary transports create high risks of contagion, mobility must be sensibly pondered and strictly regulated.

Adopted measures

- **Implementation of measures to restrict movement of people in and out of the detention setting, and verification of symptoms upon their return** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Implementation of measures to restrict transfers within the prison/detention system** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Issuance of guidelines so that all inmates' health is assessed (presence of symptoms compatible with COVID-19) on their return to the penitentiary institution** (ICPA, 2020)
- **Where inmates who are to be transferred to another prison need to undergo a swab sample test, it will be necessary to wait until the negative outcome of said test, before transferring him/her** (EUROPRI, 2020).
- **Appropriate escorts to be used and advice on safe transfers followed** (WHO, 2020).
- **In case of a possible case's transportation there must be a decontamination of vehicles, they should be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible before it is brought back into service** (ARP, 2020; WHO, 2020).
- **Movement of under trial inmates (UTP) for court appearances are being checked and controlled** (ICPA, 2020).

Countries

PT; AR; BR; CZ; BG; DK¹³⁵; EE¹³⁶; ES¹³⁷; FI¹³⁸; GH; IL; LT; LU; LV¹³⁹; MD; NO; NL; RO¹⁴⁰; SE; SK; TR¹⁴¹; Vic, AU¹⁴²; XK¹⁴³

CZ¹⁴⁴; EE¹⁴⁵; ES; FI¹⁴⁶; FR; HK; IL; IT¹⁴⁷; LT; LU; LV¹⁴⁸; MD; ND, USA, RO; SE; SK; Vic, AU; XK

AR, BR, HK; UY

IT

BR¹⁴⁹; HK; NO; SK¹⁵⁰; Victoria, AU¹⁵¹; WA, AU¹⁵²

BR¹⁵³; BG; TR¹⁵⁴; Vic, AU

PK

- ¹³⁵ All prisoner's leave permissions have been recalled and will only be granted leave under urgent circumstances (EUOPRIS: Department of Prisons and Probation of Denmark, 2020).
- ¹³⁶ Transfers between Police detention houses/centers and prisons are carried out in exceptional cases only (EUOPRIS: General Directorate of Prison Administration of Spain, 2020).
- ¹³⁷ Transitory exits are allowed if the inmate accepts a 14 days isolation period upon his/her return, and provided the inmate goes into quarantine and accepts to be controlled by prison staff through video chats (ARP: General Directorate of Prison Administration, 2020).
- ¹³⁸ Only if strictly necessary (EUOPRIS: Criminal Sanctions Agency Finland, 2020).
- ¹³⁹ Inmates who serve their sentence in an open prison are not allowed to leave the prison, except for those who are employed externally. Forbid inmates to use the allocated incentive to temporary leave the territory of the deprivation of liberty institution (EUOPRIS: Latvian Prison Administration, 2020).
- ¹⁴⁰ Exceptional cases (ICPA: National Administration of Penitentiaries Romania, 2020).
- ¹⁴¹ Referrals and transfers not related to health and safety are postponed for 15 days (ICPA: General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, 2020).
- ¹⁴² Infected inmates will not attend non-urgent hospital appointments (ICPA: Corrections Victoria, 2020).
- ¹⁴³ Prohibition of weekends for inmates (ICPA: Kosovo Correctional Service, 2020).
- ¹⁴⁴ Telemedicine when possible (preventive health-checks were postponed; same as nonurgent medical interventions) (ICPA: The Czech Prison Service, 2020).
- ¹⁴⁵ Medical inspections are recommended to be carried out inside inmates' housing units, in exceptional cases and when necessary - in the medical unit (ICPA: Estonian Prison Service, 2020).
- ¹⁴⁶ In open prisons, restrictions on the movement of groups of inmates to work outside the prison are also considered on a case-by-case basis (EUOPRIS: Criminal Sanctions Agency Finland, 2020).
- ¹⁴⁷ Only the transfer of inmates for reasons of health and those ones grounded on situation namely: transfers for reasons of order and security, in consequence of the recent riots and troubles occurred in penal establishments; transfers for reasons of justice (where it is not possible to participate in the hearing through the video- conference system). Each inmate leaving a prison shall undergo a swab sample test, taken by the competent healthcare staff (EUOPRIS: Department of Prison Administration of Italy, 2020).
- ¹⁴⁸ Except transferring inmates to Latvian Prison Hospital in Olaine Prison and for commencement of the sentence execution of inmates (EUOPRIS: Latvian Prison Administration, 2020).
- ¹⁴⁹ Mandatory usage of PPE (namely masks) by all involved persons during the transport of an ill inmate (ICPA: Departamento Penitenciario Nacional, 2020).
- ¹⁵⁰ And only when necessary (ICPA: Corps of Prison and Court Guard of the Slovak Republic, 2020).
- ¹⁵¹ Precautions should be taken by the prisoner and staff during transfer to minimise the risk of transmission (wear masks, observe strict hand hygiene and cough etiquette) (ICPA: Corrections Victoria, 2020).
- ¹⁵² Usage of masks and gloves (ICPA: Department of Corrective Services Western Australia, 2020).
- ¹⁵³ Adoption of measures that ensure the ventilation of the vehicle (ICPA: Departamento Penitenciário Nacional, 2020).
- ¹⁵⁴ Regular disinfection of transport vehicles, compliance with hygiene rules, independently of the transport of a suspect individual (ICPA: General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, 2020).

Countries

CO; GH; HK; NSW, AU;
NZ; SK; Vic, AU

PT; AR; AT; BE; BG; BR; CA;
CO; CZ; DK; EE; ES; FI;
FR; GH; GT; HK; IL; LT;
LU; LV; MD; ND, USA;
NL; NO; NSW, AU; NZ;
OR, USA; PK; PL; QLD, AU;
RO; SE; SG; SK; TR; UY; Vic,
AU; WA, AU; XK

PT; NZ; Vic, AU¹⁰⁸

PT; AT; IT; UY¹⁰⁹

PT; BR; IT

Adopted measures

- **Prison health-care professionals (or the individual who is unwell) to call health services or emergency services (if they are seriously ill or their life is at risk) and explain their current clinical symptoms and their epidemiological and travel history (this may not be necessary if the prison is located in affected area)** (WHO, 2020).
- **Medical isolation of individuals showing symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or if they have a prior COVID-19 diagnosis and are still symptomatic, until there will be further medical evaluation and testing** (WHO, 2020).
- **Any contact who becomes ill and meets the case definition becomes a suspect case to be tested** (WHO, 2020).
- **Staff members must immediately report if they experience symptoms compatible with COVID-19** (EUROPRIS, 2020; ICPA, 2020).
- **Appropriate actions need to be taken for any confirmed cases, including transfer to specialist facilities for respiratory isolation and treatment, as required** (WHO, 2020).

¹⁰⁸ Tests should be carried out to everyone suffering from acute respiratory infection and with a confirmed travel history in the last 14 days to high-risk locations or has had contact with someone with a confirmed case in the last 14 days (Victoria Corrections).

¹⁰⁹ In case a staff member shows symptoms compatible with COVID-19, and spends the night at the penitentiary institution, they be placed in a transitory space for medical assessment (ICPA: Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación, 2020).

Initial Management and Testing of Cases of Respiratory Illness

COVID-19 in prisons

Thorough measures of rapid health assessment and isolation must be undertaken to guarantee the early detection of potential COVID-19 cases.

Quarantine (asymptomatic exposed persons)

COVID-19 in prisons

Containment strategies must be adopted on a precaution basis, in order to ensure the health and wellbeing of all persons involved in the detention setting, as they may easily come into contact with the virus.

Adopted measures

- **Creation of specific spaces destined to the quarantine and observation of patients** (EUROPRIS, 2002; ICPA, 2020).
- **Institution of self-quarantine protocols for inmates** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Individuals who have been in contact with suspected cases should be monitored for 14 days from the last unprotected contact** (WHO, 2020).
- **Contact tracing should begin immediately after a suspect case has been identified in a prison or detention facility, without waiting for the laboratory result, in order to avoid delays in implementing health measures when necessary** (WHO, 2020).

Countries

PT; AR, BG, IL; LT; UK

PT; GH

PT; AT; BE; BG; LT; NZ

PT; BE; IT

Quarantine (asymptomatic exposed persons)

- **Any newly identified probable or confirmed cases to have their own contacts identified and monitored** (WHO, 2020).
PT; BE; LT¹⁶⁰; NZ
- **Staff members who have been close to foreigners in affected countries, have travelled abroad or has come into contact with a confirmed case must be placed under quarantine** (EUROPRI, 2020; ICPA, 2020).
BG; CO; CZ; LT; NSW, AU¹⁶¹; NZ; SK; Vic, AU; WA, AU¹⁶²
- **Any detainee who has travelled from or lived in an identified high-risk area or had contact with a known case of COVID-19, to be placed in quarantine in single accommodation, for 14 days from the date of travel or last possible day of contact** (WHO, 2020).
PT; HK; SK

¹⁶⁰ Other inmates from the same cell or who had contacts with a potentially infected person should be isolated from the rest of the prison population to the extent that they have no direct contact with persons without protective measures until the results of a potentially infected person are available (ICPA: Prison Department of Lithuania, 2020).

¹⁶¹ Possibility to work from home will also be contemplated (ICPA: Corrective Services New South Wales, 2020).

¹⁶² More precisely, and regardless of symptoms, all employees who have left or transited through mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) on or after 1 February 2020 must isolate themselves until 14 days after leaving China; all employees who have left or transited through Iran on or after 1 March 2020 must isolate themselves until 14 days after leaving Iran; all employees who have left or transited through the Republic of Korea on or after 5 March 2020 must isolate themselves until 14 days after leaving the Republic of Korea (ICPA: Department of Corrective Services Western Australia, 2020).

Quarantine (asymptomatic exposed persons)

- **If it is not possible to house the detainee in medical isolation, then detainees with similar risk factors and exposures may be housed together while they undergo quarantine** (WHO, 2020).
- **Monitoring to be done by prison healthcare or custodial staff with regular visits to see if symptoms have developed** (WHO,2020).
- **Patient to wear a medical face mask while being transferred to an isolation room** (WHO, 2020).
- **During quarantine, the isolated person should be under medical observation at least twice a day, including taking body temperature and checking for symptoms of COVID-19 infection** (WHO, 2020).
- **All staff and people in prisons and other places of detention to stay home when ill** (WHO, 2020).

PT; BR¹⁶³; Vic, AU

BR; SK; WA, AU

GT¹⁶⁴; PY

PT; BR; CO; EE; IL; ND,
USA;
NZ; SE; UY; Vic, AU; XK

¹⁶³ Preventive Isolation of inmates suffering from chronic illnesses and inmates older than 60 years old (ICPA: Departamento Penitenciario Nacional, 2020).

¹⁶⁴ Constant monitoring of juvenile offender's body temperature in Juvenile Correction Centre (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

Isolation / Cohorting (symptomatic persons)

COVID-19 in prisons
Individual health assessment and care along with the creation of specific areas for effective isolation are key elements for a successful approach to the control of the pandemic.

Adopted measures

- **Creation of isolation areas, following social distance protocols** (ARP, 2020)
- **Isolation of inmates with even minor symptoms** (EUROPRI, 2020).
- **Institution of self-isolation protocols for inmates** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Double-bunking inmates to jointly self-isolate** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Isolation spaces to provide running water and soap for hand hygiene** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Adequate measures to be in place to protect persons in isolation from any form of ill treatment and to facilitate meaningful human contact as appropriate and possible in the given circumstances (e.g. by audiovisual means of communication)** (WHO, 2020).
- **Once a suspected case of COVID-19 has been transferred out of the prison or other place of detention to a hospital facility, the room where the patient was placed and the room where the patient was residing should not be used until appropriately decontaminated** (WHO, 2020).
- **In case a member of staff becomes unwell in the prison and has travelled to an affected area or lives in an area where COVID-19 has been spreading, they should be removed to a location which is at least 1 meter away from other people** (WHO, 2020).
- **Lockdown the facility when there is a presumed case in the facility** (ICPA, 2020)

Countries

PT; BE; BR; BG; CZ; GT; IL;
IT; LT; LU; SK; Vic, AU;
PY; QLD, AU; UY; XK

PT; DK

GH

NZ

BR

AR; BR; BE

ND, USA

COVID-19 in prisons
Prisons must be able to guarantee the proper treatment and recovery of a confirmed or suspected case, through clinical care and the eventual transfer of the sick inmate to the hospital.

Adopted measures

- **Transfer of the sick inmate to the hospital** (WHO, 2020).
- **Appointment of additional doctors in order to minimise the transfer of inmates to the hospital** (ICPA, 2020).
- **Sterilization of patient-care equipment** (WHO, 2020).
- **Hire additional medical staff from the military system if necessary** (EUROPRIS, 2020)
- **While the unwell individual waits for advice or an ambulance to arrive, they should remain at least 1 meter from other people, and if possible be isolated behind a closed door** (WHO, 2020).
- **The unwell individual should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects** (WHO, 2020).

Countries

PT; AR; BR; BE²¹⁵⁵ ; BG; CZ¹⁵⁶; ES; GT¹⁵⁷; IT¹⁵⁸ ; LV¹⁵⁹; LU; MD; NSW, AU; PK; QLD, AU; SK

TR

ES

AR

¹⁵⁵ Detainees presenting moderate symptoms are to be transferred to the Bruges prison, whereas detainees presenting grave symptoms are to be transferred to the hospital (EUROPRIS: Belgian Prison Service, 2020).

¹⁵⁶ If they have symptoms of COVID-19, they shall be transferred to the prison hospital. However, if infected inmates were found among the current prison population, they would be moved (in cooperation with public health authorities) to regular public hospital treating COVID-19 patients (ICPA: The Czech Prison Service, 2020).

¹⁵⁷ Creation of a specific hospital for people deprived of liberty which allows the concentration of victims (ARP: Sistema Penitenciario Guatemalteco, 2020).

¹⁵⁸ Positive outcome of the swab test: the healthcare staff, coordinated by the chief medical doctor of the prison, shall assess, based on clinical conditions of the prisoner, whether he should stay in a healthcare confinement in dedicated premises inside the prison or he should be hospitalised (EUROPRIS: Department of Prison Administration of Italy, 2020).

¹⁵⁹ Allow to call the medical emergency which further decides about the transfer of a prisoner outside the LPA imprisonment place, only in the case of acute illness that threaten the prisoner's life and whom the LPA imprisonment place medical staff cannot provide the relevant medical help (EUROPRIS: Latvian Prison Administration, 2020).

- **If the unwell individual needs to go to the bathroom while waiting for medical assistance, a separate bathroom must be used, if available, which should be properly disinfected** (WHO, 2020).
- **Patients should be placed in adequately ventilated space** (WHO, 2020). PT; BR
- **If more suspected cases are detected and if individual spaces are not available, patients suspected of being infected with COVID-19 should be grouped together in a previously indicated space** (WHO, 2020). BR; ND, USA; Vic, AU
- **All patients' beds to be placed at least 1 meter apart whether they are suspected of having COVID-19 infection** (WHO, 2020).
- **In case of death caused by the virus, staff should follow the policy on death of a resident (next of kin notification, and all other sections of the Policy, Serious Injury, Illness or Death of a Resident, should be followed)** (ICPA, 2020). ND, USA
- **Expand infirmary for the infected** (ICPA, 2020). ND, USA

Sources and Updated Information

This document was produced based on data publicly available as well on information compiled by ICPA the International Corrections and Prisons Association, EUROPRIS The European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services and the Penitentiary Regional Academy. For updated information please visit the following websites:

- **ICPA International Corrections and Prisons Association.** (2020). COVID-19 Information. from <https://icpa.org/covid-19-information/>
- **EUROPRIS European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services.** (2020). COVID-19 Prevention Measures in European Prisons: <https://www.euopris.org/covid-19-prevention-measures-in-european-prisons/>

For information about **reduction of overcrowding**, please consult the **UNODC Handbook on strategies to reduce overcrowding in prisons**:

English: https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Overcrowding_in_prisons_Ebook.pdf

Spanish: https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/HBonOvercrowding/UNODC_HB_on_Overcrowding_ESP_web.pdf

References

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- Academia Regional Penitenciaria. (2020). Resumen de Recomendaciones de la Academia Regional Penitenciaria para los Países del Hemisferio Americano y sus Establecimientos de Privación de Libertad, con Motivo de la Pandemia Covid19 en este Año 2020. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: Academia Regional Penitenciaria.
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. (2020). Statement of principles relating to the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (CPT/Inf (2020)13). Strasbourg, France: Council of Europe.
- World Health Organisation. (2020). Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention. Copenhagen, Denmark: World Health Organisation.

About us

IPS_Innovative Prison Systems is a boutique research and consulting firm specialised in the fields of justice, prison services, community sanctions and measures, juvenile justice, and law enforcement.

Our senior consulting team has two decades of experience in policy design, strategic consulting, training (management, technical and first-line staff), e-learning and ICT development for prison systems across continents, namely in **Europe, North and Latin America**.

As part of our interventions in correctional reform advisory, together with correctional administrations, the academia, civil society organisations and private partners, we develop research and pilot projects, consolidating expertise in several knowledge areas, including radicalisation prevention, judicial cooperation, mental health and ageing, juvenile justice, offender reintegration, probation, prison work & industries, education in prisons, information and communication technologies for corrections, prison innovation & management.

Together with UBI University we have launched **BSAFE LAB** – Law Enforcement, Justice and Public Safety Research and Technology Transfer Laboratory, an open interdisciplinary research unit aiming to foster and develop the generation of knowledge and new technology transfer in the fields of law enforcement, justice and public safety. The BSAFE LAB develops projects with correctional agencies from different jurisdictions in Europe.

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JUSTICE TRENDS is a bi-annual publication that covers contemporary criminal justice matters and it is filled with exclusive interviews with prominent personalities, from Ministers of Justice to Directors-General from around the world. There is also a groundbreaking Experts' Panel in each edition and plenty of articles by renowned experts. It is mailed to prison and probation administrations and Ministries of Justice of over 120 countries. Thousands of corrections practitioners and stakeholders read it online.

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