

## Country report Moldova

### TOTAL

Confirmed cases            **149 (2 prison staff)**

### TOTAL

Recovered cases            **2**

### TOTAL

Under investigation        **116**

TOTAL Deaths            **1**

### TOTAL

Under monitoring            **27392 (57 prison staff and 2 inmates)**

## **Actions taken within the Prison administrations**

### **By Ministry of Justice order of 13 of March 2020**

1. The special regime within the system of penitentiary administration was establish;
2. Quarantine in the institutions of the penitentiary administration system was establish;
3. Visits and meetings within the penitentiary institutions have been suspended/limited;
4. The transfers at the personal request and / or their relatives, to other penitentiary institutions prohibited, except for the hospitalization within the penitentiary hospital and / or in the public-sanitary or external institutions of the penitentiary hospital;
5. The sanitary-anti-epidemiological regime in all the penitentiaries subordinated to the National Administration must be intensified, at the central and territorial level intervention plans must be approved for the prevention and combating of covid-19.

### **By National Administration of Penitentiaries**

1. The technical-medical support group was established, with the following tasks:
  - analysing, managing and, where appropriate, proposing measures regarding the epidemiological situation caused by the possible increase in the incidence of confirmed cases of infection with the new coronavirus (hereinafter COVID-19);
  - continues communication with the subordinated institutions in order to collect the data with epidemiological significance;
  - Monitoring the implementation of the Plan of measures for the prevention of the illness and the spread of the infection with COVID-19 among the personnel and of the persons deprived of liberty;

- the permanent updating of the Plan of measures to prevent the illness and the spread of the infection with COVID-19 among the staff and of the persons deprived of liberty with new measures that are required as a result of the evolution of the current epidemiological context;
- Continuous monitoring (24/24) of the situation in the Republic of Moldova, regarding the evolution of COVID-19 infection;
- informing the management of the National Prison Administration about the group's activity;
- permanent collaboration with the relevant public authorities / institutions involved in the management of emergency medical situations, respectively the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Defence;
- proposes to the management of the National Penitentiary Administration urgent measures for implementation in situations with epidemiological risk;
- Regular information of the Ministry of Justice on the newly emerged cases of epidemiological situations in the prison administration system;
- ensuring the exchange of information within the group, giving priority to electronic means.
- Accumulation of daily information and as necessary about the situation in prisons;
- monitoring of basic organizational measures and special measures;
- contributing to effective cooperation with leaders in decision-making;
- identification of the problems that the penitentiary institutions face;
- proposing solutions in the context of problems arising in institutions;
- supervision of the activity of the managers of the institutions supervised in the chapter of managerial activity;
- monitoring, including video, the situation in prisons.

### 3. The prison directors

- obligation to inform immediately, the technical-medical support group, about any new situation, relevant in the current epidemiological context and to maintain permanently the connection with the National Agency of Public Health, as well as its subordinate institutions within the scope of the penitentiaries.
- ensure to the 25.03.2020, the approval of the measures plans adapted to the specific of the institution based on the standard measures plan;
- ensures the elaboration and approval of joint action plans, with the involvement of the medical institutions and the territorial subdivisions of the General Inspectorate of Emergency Situations, located regionally or in the territorial administrative unit;
- verbally and in writing inform the management of the National Prison Administration, about the impediments to the execution of the Plan of measures of the National Prison Administration in the context of declaring the state of emergency in the territory of the Republic of Moldova;
- ensures the preparation by the medical personnel of the declaration regarding the health status of the detainees during the last 14 days, according to annex no.3, in case of a possible transfer of them;

- identification of the vacant spaces on the territory of the penitentiaries (eg: sports halls, classes of studies of the vocational schools, spaces of the residential sectors, which after construction are divided / isolated on floors) for the accommodation of the convicts who will be isolated in quarantine;
- identify a number of 20-30 beds (standard type of penitentiary system or other improvised furniture) to equip the established free spaces;
- take the necessary measures for the good functioning of the internal trade network within the prison administration system, presenting the information to the suppliers regarding the needs of goods and products to be procured;
- ensures daily reporting at 08.30 am to the Medical Directorate of the National Penitentiary Administration information on the epidemiological situation.
- daily report to the General Direction records and transfer of the National Penitentiary Administration data regarding the movement of prisoners.

5. The leaders of the internal subdivisions / prison institutions subordinated to the National Prison Administration will:

- takes the necessary actions to fulfill their responsibilities, according to the approved Action Plan;
- ensures the planning and carrying out of the actions to supplement the stocks with the necessary products and objects;
- submit by 25.03.2020, proposals regarding the actions necessary to be taken for the use of the recently opened blocks in two prisons.
- calculate the minimum necessary staff to ensure business processes of the institution/ unit;
- adapt the program of work of prison staff (including the establishment/ individualized work programs, with flexible working time arrangements) to avoid overcrowding in the working premises;
- minimize contacts keeping social distance of 2 m;
- ensure personal protective masks port by all staff involved in service;
- reassess the accommodation capacities of the penitentiary institution and establish the housing units for medical isolation, in case of necessity for the control of COVID-19 infection. "

6. For the purpose of implementing dynamic security in detention institutions, prison officers shall ensure:

- the implementation of the order of the Ministry of Justice no. 50 of 12.03.2020 regarding the establishment of the special regime within the prison administration system;
- organizing the proper information of the persons deprived of their liberty, in order to ensure their awareness of the risk / danger of personal infection and their relatives;
- approve at the institution level plans of measures adapted to the specific of the administered institution.

7. Conducting online meetings of detainees with relatives, in all penitentiary institutions (instead of short-term visits and long term).

8. The type evaluation questionnaire for COVID-19 infection is approved,

9. At the beginning of the work day, until they have access to the territory of the penitentiary institution, the persons with the right of access are required to complete the approved questionnaire, within the control and access point, in the rest of the institutions within the penitentiary administration system, including the National Administration of the penitentiary administration. In the penitentiaries, the questionnaire will be completed at the entrance to the headquarters.

10. The access in the institutions is denied for the persons who did not complete the questionnaire properly.

11. The indication of the erroneous data in the questionnaire may attract, as the case may be, disciplinary, contravention or criminal liability.

12. Restrict access of citizens to the offices who operate in the headquarters of the National Prison Administration.

13. The correspondence addressed to the Administration will be deposited in the mailbox located at the entrance to the institution.

14. The medical-technical group, in charge of which the monitoring and assistance of the subordinated institutions is established, which consists of:

- accumulation of daily information and as necessary about the situation in prisons;
- monitoring of basic organizational measures and special measures;
- contributing to effective cooperation with leaders in decision-making;
- identification of the problems that the penitentiary institutions face;
- proposing solutions in the context of problems arising in institutions;
- supervision of the activity of the managers of the institutions supervised in the chapter of managerial activity;
- monitoring, including video, the situation in prisons.

## **GENERAL ACTION**

1. The heads of subdivisions must acknowledge the provision of the acts / decisions issued by the competent authorities in order to prevent and combat the infection COVID-19 (the Commission for Exceptional Situations of the Republic of Moldova, the National Extraordinary Commission of Public Health, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection Ministry Justice, National Prison Administration, NGOs, etc.)

2. Limiting the movement of persons deprived of their liberty between the detention sectors and avoiding the formation of groups larger than 3 persons, keeping the social distance of at least 2 meters. Exit from the detention sectors should be only after disinfection of the hands and with the application of the personal protection mask for people who have signs of illness and those in the household sector.

3. Placing the announcements in all the detention sectors regarding the necessary actions to be taken when the symptoms of viruses or COVID-19 appear.

4. Placement of general information on the evolution of COVID-19 infection in the Republic of Moldova.

5. Providing the necessary for the provision of the personal hygiene materials of the detainees and staff.

6. Providing the necessary for the provision of collective cleaning items used at the institution's laundry.

7. Establishment of an initiative group among prisoners to promote respect for personal and collective hygiene

8. Daily provision of wet ventilation and desiccation in all living spaces

9. Providing the necessary / storage of solid fuel, used for household purposes (heated, food preparation, washing clothes, bathing, etc.), fuel for the operation of the electric generators.

Maintenance of generators and lighting sources (perimeter, holding sections, operator unit, power supply unit) as well as the necessary batteries.

10. Providing funds for the fulfillment of a food requirement for the preparation of the prisoners' food. Providing food and supplies with canned goods, meat, and bread to provide food for prisoners.

11. Excluding the crowding of people in canteens, respecting the separation of people by sectors, with the provision of hygiene measures after exchanges. Ensuring the distribution of food in housing blocks and taking the table at the sleeping / living place.

12. Check the quantity, analyze the needs and ensure all the medicines and sanitary materials, at the institution level.

13. Ensuring the information flow, inside the institution, as well as the functionality of the information and communication systems.

14. Limiting access to the penitentiary through the control point of the personnel who activate. Passage and control points for persons and locks for car transport, to be sprayed with chlorine solutions.

15. Thorough execution of the technical controls in the living cells, of the strip 15X50 m., Of the underground communications, of the vulnerable areas, etc., with the detection of the shortcomings and the liquidation in restricted terms of them.

16. Measures will be taken in order to thoroughly check persons, cars, entering and leaving the penitentiary. At the same time, the appropriate guarding of the penitentiary perimeter, especially of vulnerable places, will be carried out.

17. In the case of escorting the convicts outside the penitentiary, the employees who will be involved in their guarding and supervision, will take all the necessary measures, the actions being taken in strict accordance with the Regulation of the combat service and the guard plan.

18. In cases of escorting the convicts to the hospital or some medical centres in the penitentiary area, it is necessary that the medical service of the institutions clearly establish the necessity of escorting the detainees outside the institution and the early planning of these measures, with the submission of the motivated report to the subdivision management.

19. Permanent updating of information regarding the evidence of convicted persons prone to escape, aggressive behaviour, which may cause riots, etc. Depending on the analysis performed, their behaviour will be permanently monitored. In addition, in motivational cases, the transfer of the convicts to other institutions, whose infrastructure allows the management in conditions of increased security.

20. Minimizing the spending of all educational activities with prisoners, and as far as possible, limiting their grouping in some spaces.

21. The movements within the detention sector are limited to the maximum for the personnel planned in the supervisory service, specialized day staff and those with management functions or intervention structures.

22. The maximum contact of the personnel with the prisoners, known with pulmonary diseases or with low immunity is limited to the maximum.

23. Inmates will be kept informed at all times and they will be alerted to the obligation of communicating the medical or supervisory staff, as soon as possible, regarding the change of their or others' health.

24. Daily (repeatedly, at 8.00, 12.00, 18.00), the information regarding the evolution of the statistical data with COVID-19 is analyzed and presented to the director of the institution respectively.

We emphasize that the director of the penitentiary has the following obligations:

- to process and inform prisoners about the importance of protecting the health of the prison population;
- to check and inform about the evolution of the prisoners' mood.

25. Organizing the activity of transferring prisoners between prisons, to limit, as far as possible, the number of persons deprived of their liberty.

26. Identification of the spaces at risk of infection and application of the actions of diminution (zone of admission, medical service, quarantine)

We had a mutual agreement with the police to hold the persons on arrest up to 7 days (72h by law).