



## Message to the inmates – coronavirus Covid-19

The coronavirus COVID-19 infection rates are increasingly rising in our country. Just as in free society, it is very important that the nationally recommended precautionary and control measures are also followed inside the prisons in order to prevent the spread of the virus and to protect everyone's safety.

### Hygiene



**Wash your hands regularly with water and soap.**



**Use paper tissues to dry your hands and blow your nose.  
After each use, throw them away in the trash bin.**



**Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze in your elbow.**

### Visits

In order to prevent contamination, it is important to keep a distance from other people. All over the world, group activities are therefore being cancelled. This is also necessary inside the prison both for your own health and for that of your family, friends, ...<sup>1</sup>.

**As of 14 March until 3 April 2020 all visits are canceled.** This means: visit in the visiting room, children's visit, visit without supervision (private and family visit) and visit behind glass.

To compensate for the cancellation of visits, you will receive an additional **call credit of € 20** to keep in touch with your family and friends during these difficult times.

People who have to enter the prison for professional reasons are still allowed. This mainly concerns police and security officers, intelligence services and judicial authorities, lawyers, magistracy and health and care workers.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to article 114 of the Basic Law of 12 January 2005 concerning the prison system and the legal position of detainees, the prison director can adopt all urgent measures appropriate to the circumstances in the event of a serious situation that can potentially jeopardize the safety of all.



## Activities

As of 14 March until 3 April 2020 all group activities are cancelled, except for the following ones:

- employment (domestic work, cell work, prison workplace)
- prison yard
- Books from the library can be delivered to you on your cell but you are not allowed to go to the library.
- individual religious services

Individual assistance from external partners will still be given.

We are aware that this decision impacts you and your family and friends. We ask for your understanding and repeat that this measure is put in place to protect national health. Of course, we will keep you informed of further evolutions.

May we ask you to inform your visitors. Thank you.

**Rudy Van De Voorde**

*Director General of the Belgian Prison Service*