

**Response Italian Department of Penitentiary Administration on the use of masks and  
compensation measures for visits / activities  
19 March 2020**

**MASKS: Do you have masks and gloves for the teams (specially wardens) in contact with the inmates?**

**What are your regulations of the use of masks by your teams (time of use; limited to contact with ill detainees or the whole population?)**

In our prisons, the prison staff who work in close contact with inmates must wear masks and gloves (entry into the prison, detention wings,...) including those who work in the Escorted Transfers Service. It must be underlined that the escorted transports have been strongly reduced in this period.

**Compensations due to end of activities / visits: what new ideas/regulations have you introduced to reduce the effects on detainees of end of activities/visits?**

In consequence of the reduction of the visits from families, the following provisions were taken.

***E-mail and Skype communications***

With the purpose of ensuring the continuation of the ongoing school and education courses, the graduation final exams, the university exams and tests, the interviews between teachers and detained students are allowed through the video-conference system and through Skype. That authorization is valid for prisoners assigned to the Medium security level as well as to those assigned to High security level.

If prisoners are enrolled in university courses, the correspondence through electronic mail is allowed, for quick communication with teachers.

Moreover, prisoners assigned to the Medium security level and those assigned to High security level are authorized to communicate with their families through electronic mail.

***Telephone communications***

The High security inmates are immediately authorized to have contacts with their families through mobile phones numbers, where the owner of the number is a subject who was already authorized to have telephone talks with the inmate.

The High security inmates are allowed to use the *Skype for business* platform to make video-calls with their family members who are entitled to visits

The video talks of inmates with their defense counsels are always allowed, also through the use of the *Skype for business* platform.

***Family visit to Maximum Security inmates***

The prisoners undergoing the Maximum Security regime (as per article 41-b of the Penitentiary Act) will continue to receive visits as provided for by the law, given that they receive visits in premises where they are separated from the visitors by a glass partition.

The visitors shall be invited to wear masks. The rooms will be sanitized after the visit.

As of today, there are eight inmates tested as affected by COVID-19. They are either hospitalized or in health solitary confinement in dedicated single cells of the prison.