



EUROPEAN ORGANISATION OF  
PRISON AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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## Covid-19 Response in Prisons – Poland

### Update

From **19th March** the visits are suspended in all prisons in Poland.

External employment of the inmates is significantly reduced, excluding the production of face masks and protective suits as well as food production. The order of the Prison Service was issued in agreement with the State Sanitary Inspectorate.

The alternatives for suspended visits are: more frequent phone conversations and watching TV.

At the moment the prison population in Poland is above 75.000 in 172 prisons.

### Description

No cases of coronavirus infection have been reported so far in Polish prisons. According to the GIS recommendations, 41 inmates who were in the countries where the coronavirus is present, prior to their imprisonment, were subjected to preventive observation under isolation conditions. All have no symptoms of disease. Seventeen Prison Service officers are in quarantine. They are at home in their homes and are under constant supervision of the sanitary service. They have no symptoms of disease.

From 12 March this year, preventive body temperature measurements will be carried out in all pre-trial detention centres and prisons (including HQ) for all persons entering their territory, including visitors to prisoners. If the body temperature is found to exceed 38 degrees C, a decision will be taken not to allow entry.

With a view to ensuring epidemiological security for all those in the penitentiary units, the Prison Service has put in place preventive procedures and is continuously adapting them to the recommendations of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The situation is constantly monitored. The Prison Service appeals to people who want to visit their relatives in prisons and detention centres, if they have symptoms of upper respiratory tract infections (such as fever, coughing, rhinitis or shortness of breath), to stay at home.

The Prison Service constantly cooperates with the sanitary inspectorates and monitors the epidemiological threat, so that at any time and without notice, restrictions or a complete ban on seeing may be imposed in every penitentiary unit in the country. In the event of a threat, it is possible to withhold passes and permits to leave the prison, external employment and collective activities.



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