



**COVID-19
Feedback Collection
8 April 2020**



Supported by the Justice
Programme of the European Union

	Infected		Isolated / quarantine		Dead	
	Prisoner	Staff	Prisoner	Staff	Prisoner	Staff
Slovenia	1	1	28	14		
Poland	2	3	60	40		
Slovakia	1	0	Several	several		* 23 inmates and 5 staff members have been tested
Belgium	7	32				
Czech Republic	0	8	0	3		
Israel	0	5	0	0		
Spain	25	181	389	810	1	1
Catalonia	11	25	34	250		
Sweden	5	*	40	0		*10-13%, staff on sick leave (Covid-19 symptoms, confirmed Covid-19 and other illness) in prison and probation service
Italy	37*	163**				* 9 of the 37 are hospitalized; ** 5 civilian/administrative and 158 penitentiary police officers
Austria	0	7	43	250		
Norway	2	7				
Netherlands	6					
Hungary	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
Finland	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
Lithuania	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
Georgia	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
Latvia	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
Luxembourg	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
Malta*	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		*had suspected cases 5 staff and 3 prisoners, none of them confirmed after testing
Bulgaria	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
Romania	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
Estonia	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		

Have visits been shut down entirely?

- (1) If no: Under which circumstances is it possible to visit a prisoner?
- (2) If yes: What alternatives have been provided?
- (3) If partially: Who is still allowed under which conditions (prevention measures) to visit a prisoner?

Poland	In Polish prisons the visits have been shut down entirely. The alternative - the possibilities of contact by telephone, mail and instant messaging have been increased in order to ensure contact with the detainees' relatives. Detainees also have greater access to television, radio and the press.
Austria	No reception of visits (family, friends, etc.). Privileged visits (lawyers, adult representatives, probationary services, etc.) are to be given the best possible preventive protection in all directions in accordance with the previous orders. The instructions are appropriate to the situation and must be communicated to inmates and visitors with a request for understanding. Attention must be paid to the inmates to ensure appropriate atmospheric balance by internal measures and possible benefits. Among other things, video telephony and extended telephone calls are now granted.
Ireland	The Irish Prison Service have ceased all family physical visits and provided video link visits to prisoners. Professional visits (solicitors/legal representatives) are still permitted if required.
Slovakia	In Slovakia, from 6 March 2020 all visits of inmates were suspended until further notice. This does not apply to service official acts of criminal proceedings authorities (e.g. prosecutions, courts, police force and the like) and advocates/lawyers. Compensation: Due to cancellation of visits, the Corps of Prison and Court Guard wants to support the contact of inmates with their close persons and that in the form of making more phone calls and correspondence. 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.
Italy	Substitute visits with relatives or third parties, other than defence counsel, with remote talks through available tools in the prison such as skype, telephone calls, that can be authorised to exceed the previously set limits. Visit to penal institutions and meetings with defense counsel, the defense counsel visitor shall make use of an adequate protection device.
Belgium	From 13 March 2020 all visits of inmates were suspended until further notice. This does not apply to service official acts of criminal proceedings authorities (e.g. prosecutions, courts, police force and advocates/lawyers. Compensation: Due to cancellation of visits, Belgian Prison Service wants to support the contact of inmates with their family in the form of making more phone calls. Every inmate get 10 euro/week to make phone calls.
Latvia	Prisoners may be attended by lawyers, performers of procedures and employees of the State Probation Service. Visits are organized in a short-term meeting rooms with a protection glass. Other visits with third persons are not allowed.

Lithuania	Prisoners may do additional phone calls and video calls. The Lithuanian prisons are practically shut down. Defenders/ prosecutors/ pre-trial investigators are allowed to prisons in exceptional cases, the temperature is being measured at the gates, provided it's higher than normal - a person is not allowed inside. Pre-trial investigation proceedings are limited to minimum, unless they are inevitable. In case a contact interview or other procedural action is necessary these actions are carried out in specialized rooms keeping the obligatory 2m distance or in contactless visiting rooms.
Spain	Suspended all visits as general principle. As compensation measures, inmates have more telephone calls and mobile phones have been also distributed in order to facilitate contact with families. With lawyers, if possible, we are also implementing video conferences.
Estonia	In Estonia all visits to prisoners are suspended, except visits by criminal defence counsels, representatives who are advocates, ministers of religion, notary and consular officers of country of nationality to prisoners. In order to enable all prisoners phone calls, Estonian Prison Service loads extra talk-time to the calling cards of these prisoners who do not have sufficient funds to do it themselves.

Is your prison service considering, given the current risk of COVID_19 infections, to limit the use of multi-person cells?

Austria	The necessity of multiple occupancy cannot be excluded. However, we try to avoid double or multiple occupancy, especially in the access/isolation departments.
Slovakia	At the moment in Slovakia we are not considering to limit the use of multi-person cells.
Belgium	At the moment in Belgium we are not considering to limit the use of multi-person cells.
Lithuania	The Lithuanian Prison Department is not yet considering to limit the use of multi-person cells, but in case of COVID-19 infection among prison population this option may be reviewed.
Estonia	In Estonia 28% of prisoners live in single-occupancy cells, all other prisoners live in double-occupancy cells. There are no cells for more than two people in Estonian prisons.
Italy	Prison governors are assigning to healthcare confinement the inmates who need to be isolated from the rest of prison population, therefore they place those prisoners in single cells in specific wings dedicated to healthcare confinement. Prison facilities in Italy cannot provide single cells accommodation to all inmates.

Do officers and civil servants use masks and gloves during service?

Spain	In Spain there is general lack of material, but last week, inmates started to make masks and masks were also distributed among prison staff.
Lithuania	Prison staff in direct contact with prison population must wear protective face masks and gloves. Others are recommended
Israel	Prison guards and officers within the prisons use masks & gloves. We have no civil servants
Luxembourg	Prison staff in direct contact with detainees must wear masks and gloves.
Estonia	Prisons officers must wear a face mask and gloves when: in direct contact with a prisoner; searching a cell; performing admission procedures; searching and escorting prisoners (inside and outside the prison); working in the admission facilities (unless, communication is performed through glass); in prison kitchen at all times.
Belgium	FFP1 masks are worn by all staff members (guards and administration). Gloves for serving food, fouilles, ... FFP2 masks and gloves are worn to have contact with prisoners in medical isolation.
Norway	No, they do not unless they are in contact with inmates that are suspected infected or proven infected by test.
Bulgaria	Personal equipment (masks and gloves) and disinfectants are provided for security and other prison staff. For medical staff working in prisons additional equipment is provided like special safety glasses and protective clothing.
Austria	All staff members and inmates are to be equipped with the surgical masks available in the prisons according to the respective circumstances and possibilities and with explicit consideration to maintain a sufficiently large stock. As soon as possible, these masks are to be replaced by mouth-nose protection masks produced by the prisons. All staff members on duty should wear an appropriate mask as far as possible. One mask per day should be used, and two masks per day particularly long and intensive (in terms of contacts) service. Inmates must always wear surgical masks or mouth-nose masks for a period of four weeks after being transferred from the access department when leaving their detention room. One mask per day is calculated. The sewn protective masks from our own production are to be reused after removal of the filter insert. The masks have to be changed daily and they can be boiled out. Each staff member have to be equipped with a set of five sewn protective masks. If the masks cleaning cannot be carried out in the Prison or externally, they are to be prepared privately for reuse. Stricter protective measures, e.g. in the isolated access departments, in the infirmaries and at the new admission, remain unaffected. - All Prisons are requested to restart or expand the production of sewn protective masks in their own facilities in accordance with the applicable standards and in consultation with the Budget- and Economic Department in the General Directorate and the prison doctors. - In addition, the Directorate-General has also notified the need for protective masks of various classes, gloves, protective suits, etc. for the prisons in the framework of the State crisis and disaster management (critical infrastructure). Other sources of supply were also requested for procurement.
Slovakia	Face masks: The prison staff is obliged to use face masks during fulfilling the service tasks, especially when they are in contact with other persons. Each member of the prison staff received an appropriate number of reusable face masks provided by the Prison service. Their disinfection is carried out individually by prison staff. Gloves: It is up to the prison staff whether they decide to use them. Single-use gloves are available in all prisons. It is obligatory to wear the gloves during certain service activities (e.g. when serving food, measuring body temperature, changing laundry, when contacting inmate suspected of having COVID-19 etc.; medical prison staff should wear them always when performing their duties).
Poland	Inmates produce weekly about 150,000 protective masks, 2,500 protective suits, 9,000 protective aprons, and disinfectant. In the nearest future we want to increase the production of masks to 800,000 per month and the production of liquid for disinfection to 80,000 litres per month.
Poland	As of 6 April officers who come into contact with prisoners shall wear protective masks.
Latvia	Officers and civil servants working in imprisonment places use masks and gloves. The administration follows that, especially, the employees who contact with prisoners directly, wear the personal protection equipment. Medical personnel
Czech Republic	Both civil servants and officers use face masks all the time. Gloves are not mandatory. Medical personnel have "stronger" equipment for treating those potentially infected (plastic face shields produced by the Prison Service, FFP3 respirators, protective suits...However, we have no infected inmates so far). Personnel working at entry gates have to wear FFP3 respirators.
Catalonia	All prison staff directly dealing with inmates, wear masks. In addition, they will wear gloves, protection glasses or the entire PPE if the situation requires to do so and always when dealing with a person that has tested positive.
Sweden	Neither officers nor civil servants use masks and gloves during regular services. They do use such equipment if they are in contact with someone suspected or confirmed of being infected
Finland	Yes, they are used always when considered necessary. Also a spit hood may be used if there is a risk that the prisoner spits intentionally.
Netherlands	FFP masks and other protective equipment (gloves, aprons and safety glasses) are used when in contact with (suspected) COVID-19 cases.
Italy	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available for staff who perform operational services that may involve direct exposure to infected persons.

Are COVID-19 tests performed in prison, i.e. is the sample taken by the prison health service?

Spain	Tests made are till now few and centralised by the Health Public Authority.
Lithuania	Tests are performed only in cases of medical indications, but not by the prison health service
Israel	Covid-19 tests were taken only for staff that were in touch or near confirmed cases.
Luxembourg	Tests are only being performed when the concerned person shows symptoms as defined by the Ministry of Health. In Luxembourg, we have a convention with the Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg. Their medical staff decides about the necessity to make a test and if there are indicators, they perform a test.
Estonia	Prison medical department performs the tests and sends the samples to the National Laboratory for analysis.
Belgium	No, the private doctor of the staff can ask for tests. The tests for prisoners are taken by the own medical service of the prison.
Norway	Tests are done by the prison health service (employed by the local municipality – in Norway we have the “import model” of services to the prisons)
Bulgaria	In case of doubt about COVID-19 for an inmate/detainee assistance is sought from the Regional Health Inspectorate (RHI) and the Emergency Medical Service Centre (EMSC) to ensure collection, storage and transportation of material for virological examination. In exceptional cases, medical specialists in prisons also take material for a virological examination.
Slovakia	Do not have a uniform procedure for COVID-19 testing. Medical prison staff does not take samples for these tests. Some prisons carry out escorts of inmates to the relevant hospitals (infectious clinic) in order to get them tested. Some prisons use for testing a Mobile testing unit (means a mobile ambulance/ other vehicle adapted for taking samples; with trained staff; taking samples in different venues of the country), that can come to the prison and take samples directly from the inmate.
Latvia	In Latvia, the COVID-19 tests are performed by the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDPC).
Czech Republic	The Czech Prison Service medical personnel do not perform COVID-19 tests. If tests are needed, we cooperate with a responsible regional body - a public health/hygienic authority is contacted which then ensures taking the samples in prisons (to avoid transfers/escorts of prisoners outside prison).
Catalonia	Tests are performed by health care staff working in prisons which belong to the Health Department, hence under the same criteria and sent to the same labs that the tests in the community hospitals.
Sweden	Yes, tests handled by healthcare staff are performed in prisons since 1 April.
Finland	No. Prisoner health service does not take any coronavirus tests. In case of suspicion of coronavirus the prisoner is taken to local testing station of public health services.
Netherlands	COVID-19 tests are performed in prison and are carried out by the Regional Health Service or the local physician in consultation with the Regional Health Service.
Italy	Medical tests are always performed by the Healthcare staff

Early release & intake of new prisoners

Israel	240 prisoners remainder serving time less than 1 month
Latvia	imposition of short term custodial sentences has stopped
Norway	applying early release measures to decrease prison crowding, 126 inmates were released, 10-20-30 days earlier, if security allows
Estonia	no early release
Lithuania	no early release; temporary no intake of pre-trial detainees
Finland	no early release; temporary postponement of prison sentence execution for max 6 months sentences and conversion of sentences for unpaid fines until 20 June
Slovenia	provided security allows: early release for sentences left of max 6 month before release; temporary suspension of imprisonment for one month
Austria	provided security allows: temporary suspension of imprisonment for sentences up to three years
Netherlands	The category of inmates that might be eligible for an extended leave of absence, given the COVID-19 infection, are inmates who are residing in a very low security regime and are at the end of their prison sentence. During their leave they are monitored through electronic means. A very low security regime means that the inmate is only in the correctional facility during the night and must go to his job during the day.
Italy	The number of prisoners released since 29 February 2020 until 6 April 2020 is 4,093

Are your production workshops closed? Fully or partially? What type of work do you maintain? Are they only opened for sewing mask?

Netherlands	The different facilities are responsible for the daily programming within their facility. The essential daily activities, like airing and maintaining contact with the outside, are being continued as much as possible. Furthermore, the protective masks are being made by male and female inmates divided over five different locations.
Italy	Limit both, external and internal working activities which involve people coming from outside.

Have you noticed any security concerns or incidents related to Covid-19 or measures taken to curb the spread of the virus within your jurisdictions?

Netherlands	There have been no irregularities worth mentioning. In general there is a lot of understanding among the inmates.
Italy	A wide and detailed awareness-raising campaign was carried out by prison managers and staff with the support of Healthcare specialists and of the National and local Guarantors of prisoners' rights in every prison, in order to inform inmates about the reasons of the restrictions imposed on family visits and on some activities in the prisons. Many compensations were activated, including the increase in the number of telephone calls available to prisoners and the possibility to have video-conversations with families through Skype and through smartphones, provided by the Penitentiary Administration.

How to handle infected inmates

Are they isolated within the prison? If so, who is taking care of them?

Are they being treated in a civil hospital?

How did you handle all the other inmates (and staff) who had been in contact with the infected inmates?

Spain

Inmates are isolated in facilities of the prison, that have been previously prepared for that aim. Infected inmates are most of them in hospital. Two of them with low symptoms are in their prison. Also, staff and other inmates that were in contact with one positive must do the quarantine established by Health Authorities.

Italy

Prison governors agree with Health Authorities and local crisis centres clear procedures during period of swab sampling and for the treatment of the cases suspected of infection with COVID-19 among prison population, including possible measure of solitary confinement.