



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
GENERAL DIRECTORATE „EXECUTION OF SENTENCES” BULGARIA

**PROTOCOLS FOR ACTION IN CASE OF COVID-19 IN PLACES OF
DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY**

I. Behavior towards every newly arrived inmate/detainee:

1. The receiving officer shall filter by completing a questionnaire (Appendix № 1) and measures remotely the temperature of newly arrived with a view to differentiated accommodation in designated rooms.
2. For every suspected (suspicious) case shall be informed the medical specialist of following prescriptions.

II. Behavior in case of inmates/detainees with clinical evidence for respiratory infection:

1. In flu-like symptoms determined by the security and surveillance staff/social workers/psychologists, the manager shall be informed and the person shall be referred to the medical specialist.
2. During off-hours or in the absence of the healthcare professional, the staff must immediately contact the Emergency Medical Services Center (EMSC).
3. In case of clinical data on respiratory infection of the inmate/detainee, a protective mask shall be provided in order to protect the surrounding people from transmitting air droplets upon contact and shall be accommodated in the designated rooms. They are daily monitored.
4. The inmates/detainees placed in the bedroom of the potentially infected people or who have had contact with them, should be isolated from the other part of the prison population.
5. If the results are negative, the isolation is terminated, but the people are subject to a 14-day observation.
6. In case of suspected COVID-19 of an inmate/detainee, assistance is sought from the Regional Health Inspectorate (RHI) and EMSC to secure the collection, storage and transportation of virological examination material (Appendix № 2).
7. Healthcare professionals work with protective masks (with high degree of protection), goggles, gloves and protective clothing.

III. Behavior in case of inmates/detainees with a confirmed laboratory examination for COVID-19:

1. The medical specialist from the prison or the detention notifies orally the epidemiologist on duty of the RHI by telephone with extended hours and in writing within 24 hours.
2. The place where is the patient with COVID-19 is "quarantined".
3. All contacts of a patient with COVID-19 are also quarantined, as the employees are sent home and must contact their general practitioner physician for further instructions.
4. In case of positive result of an inmate/detainee with COVID-19 infection of mild and moderate severity and without complications, they are treated in outpatients' departments in prisons and detentions. The medical specialist monitors the patient, and can be consulted by phone with an infectious disease specialist on request and if it is necessary.
5. An inmate/detainee with a complex and severely flowing clinical form requiring oxygen therapy and intensive care, the medical specialist must contact the EMSC to provide an ambulance and transport the patient to a treatment facility for patients with COVID-19 infection. The transportation of patients with complications is coordinated with an on-duty epidemiologist at the RHI.
6. Security and surveillance staff, convoying the inmate/detainee shall be provided with protective clothing and equipment (mask, gloves, goggles).
7. If it is possible for the inmate with a confirmed laboratory examination of COVID-19 and complicated and severe course, a proposal shall be made from the governor of the prison to the district prosecutor at the place of service, in accordance with art. 448, para. 1 of the Penal Procedure Code for interruption of the execution of the sentence imprisonment for medical reasons. Prisoners to whom the above applies, must wait in quarantine conditions the decree for the suspension of the sentence and then to be transported.
8. After the transfer of the patient from coronavirus infection, final disinfection must be made. A strict anti-epidemic regime for infection control, disinfection and sterilization are maintained according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health in the quarantined site.
9. Removal of the inmate/detainee with COVID-19 shall be carried out after 2 (two) examinations with negative results and the quarantine shall cease.
10. Medical staff self-monitors for respiratory symptoms and high fever 14 days after the last contact with a proven case of COVID-19.

**QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR SCREENING OF COVID-19 AND
ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES**

Questions to the newly arrived inmates/detainees:

1. Are you having cough at the moment or did you have cough in the last few days?

YES	NO
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2. Do you have high temperature or a chill?

YES	NO
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3. Do you feel faint or did you feel faint in the last few days?

YES	NO
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4. Have you been in contact with a COVID-19 patient or a patient with cough, temperature and sore throat?

YES	NO
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5. Were you abroad last 2 weeks?

YES	NO
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In case of positive answer, the medical specialist in the prison/remand center shall be informed.

TAKING, STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF MATERIALS FROM PATIENTS WITH DOUBT FOR COVID-19 INFECTION

For initial diagnostic examination for COVID-19, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends to collect and examine nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal secretions.

I. The laboratory diagnostics of the patient are performed by the medical specialist in the prison or an assistance of RHI and EMSC is sought to provide clinical tests of nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal secretions.

II. Taking of nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal secretions for virological examination is done, as follows:

1. In the transport medium (2 ml saline solution in a sterile tube), received from a Laboratory of microbiology.

2. The secretion is taken with 2 tampons – one for the pharyngeal and nasal secretion. **Both secretions should be placed in the same tube**, which is labeled with patient's name.

✓ With the first swab is taken material consecutively from both nasal passages, and with the second from the pharynx.

✓ A dry cotton swab is pushed into one nostril and is left for a few seconds, then it is removed with a rotating movement and pressed to the wall of the nasal passage. A secretion is taken from both nostrils with the same swab. After the manipulation the swab is put in the tube with a saline solution.

✓ The tonsils and the back of the pharynx are vigorously wiped with another swab and then it is placed in the same tube that is closed.

3. The taken secretions are stored at + 4° C (in ice) and sent as soon as possible to the laboratory for examination in a refrigerated bag.

4. They must be transported by prison or detention's transport.

5. The samples are sent to a laboratory, conducting a virological examination on the territory of the district service or in the National reference laboratory „Influenza and ARD“ to the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, 44 A, Gen. Stoletov, Blvd., Sofia.

6. The test must be accompanied by a letter with data for the patient as required by the laboratory, conducting the examination.