



## COVID-19 Feedback Collection 15 May 2020



Supported by the Justice  
Programme of the European Union

	Infected		Isolated / quarantine		Dead		
	Prisoner	Staff	Prisoner	Staff	Prisoner	Staff	
Slovenia	2	1	28	14			
Poland	2*	6	59	52			*pre-trial detainees that came to prison with COVID-19 infection
Slovakia	0	0	4	8			
Belgium	14	61*	50**				*25 of the 61 are recovered and back at work; **on average 50 per day in quarantine
Czech Republic	0	6*	3	8			*5 staff members have recovered
Israel	1	1*	24	45			*6 staff members recovered
Spain	45*	92**	325	258	2	4	*62 total, 15 already recovered; ** 264 total, 168 already recovered
Catalonia	16*	51**					*45 already recovered - total of 61; **24 already recovered, total of 75
Sweden	52*	**	20-30	0			*out of them 17 recovered from COVID-19 ** on sick leave for positive Covid-19, symptoms, and other illnesses (7% prison&probation)
Italy	132*	192**			1	2	* 2 of them are hospitalized; **184 of them penitentiary police / 8 administrative staff; 11 hospitalised
Austria*	0	7**	43	250			*tested negative staff 91 and inmates 42 **6 recovered
Norway	9*	10		69			*6 from prison, 3 from probation – 1 of the three is recovered
Netherlands	20*				1		*14 in prisons, of which 10 are recovered, 1 deceased and 1 released from prison; 6 in forensic care of which 5 are recovered
Hungary	0	1*	0	1*			*1 infected staff member that is in quarantine
Finland	0	0*	6	1			*5 already recovered
Lithuania	0	0	0	0			
Georgia	0	0	0	0			
Latvia	0	0	0	0			
Luxembourg	1	0	2*	0			*prisoners quarantined upon their arrival are not calculated. Every new detainee stays in isolation for 7 days before being transferred to regular sections.
Malta*	0	0	0	0			
Bulgaria	1*	0	0	0			*pre-trial detainee that went directly from court to civil hospital
Romania	0	9					
Estonia	0	2*	some	some			*1 of the two is recovered and back t work
Denmark	0*	0					*1 prisoner is recovered
Moldova	1	7	9	28	0	0	
Croatia	0	2*	138**	27	0	0	*one staff member was quarantined immediately after returning from travelling abroad and has been on sick-leave since then (never entered a prison), **all newly admitted prisoners are isolated for reasons of precaution
France	35	51	127	312	1	1	
Portugal	0	7					

### Restoring family visits - when and under which conditions

Estonia	Estonian Prison Service does not plan to restore family visits in the next couple of weeks.
Norway	New rules for prison visits will be presented mid-May.
Luxembourg	From the 11th of Mai 2020 onwards, the Luxemburgish Prison Administration proceeds to a gradual opening of the visits. Visits are being limited to 30 mins/visit, 2 persons above the age of 16/visit, max. 25 visits/week. Visits take place in secured individual rooms where visitors and detainees are separated by glass. All visitors must disinfect their hands and wear masks. Furthermore, the options provided to have conversations over Skype are being maintained and still available. So detainees (condemned and defendants under the community regime) still have the possibility to make use of the videochat facilities in order to get in touch with their families.
Northern Ireland	The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) have introduced a range of measures in response to the risks presented by COVID-19, this included the suspension of 'in person' visits to prisoners. These measures were introduced having considered the situation in detail and Government advice. To help people in our care to stay in contact with their family and friends during the suspension of visits, NIPS launched virtual online visits from 13 April. NIPS reviewed the measures in place on 24 April and decided that the suspension of visits would remain in place subject to the a further review on or by 22 May. NIPS review of its measures (including the ongoing suspension of visits) will take cognisance of the prevailing operational and community context and Government advice.
Israel	No plans to open the visits
Sweden	No steps have been taken to go back to normal regimes and all restrictions that have been put in place are still valid, for example no visits (legal visits and clergy exceptions) and no leaves. However, in addition to free calls nationally (international calls are half the normal price) there are now tests ongoing with providing inmates contact with their children by using tablets. All decisions/ actions taken to limit the spread of Covid-19 are under constant evaluation,

	regarding visits there is no set date for when this will happen. The cessation of special measures related to the Covid-19 virus will happen gradually, and in line with national health policies.
Latvia	In Latvia it is not planned to restore family visits for prisoners before 9 June (for now, the emergency situation in Latvia has been announced by this date).
Lithuania	Lithuanian Prison Department plans to restore family visits from 1 June, provided the lockdown is lifted. The conditions shall be set up in line with the national health policy.
Denmark	On the 18th May a limited reopening of visits will be introduced. Prisoners with underage children will be granted one visit of up to two children and one accompanying adult pr. 14 days. Prisoners in the age between 15-17 years will be granted one visit of up to two close relations pr. 14 days. The visits will be held in line with health guidelines and requirements regarding physical surroundings and cleaning. The Danish Prison and Probation Service is continuously assessing when to further open up visits in prisons.
France	In France, the deconfinement started gradually from May 11. Visits are limited to one visitor (adult) per inmate. The provision of laundry is not possible so far (these precautionary measures will be reassessed on June 2, second step of the national deconfinement). Contacts between inmates and their visitor must strictly respect the barrier measures: washing hands before the visit, respect a sufficient distance, not allowance of any physical contact (kissing, hugging, etc.). Wearing of a personal mask is compulsory for all visitors from the entrance of the establishment, in order to maintain a maximum level of protection against the virus in detention. Wearing of a mask by detainee is also compulsory (provided by the administration). Each visit cabin is cleaned between two visits (which has an impact on the reduction of numbers of available: sometimes: 50% operational, 50% cleaned, and then a switch to allow time for cleaning). Extension to 2 visitors (i.e. including one child) will be assess for the 2nd step of de-confinement (June 2nd). Possibility given to governors to adapt the location of visits: easier sometimes to organise them in a common but large room (at least for the start). Visitors have to complete a document (same draft for all prisons) acknowledging that they don't have covid symptoms, and that they understand and respect the rules (including sanitary ones) during all the visit: the keep the document with them as we do not have the right to keep "medical" personal information. They have to show their face for ID at the entrance and when leaving the prison. Time is limited to max 1 hour per visit. Plexi separation can be added to separate the visitor and the detainee; but main rule is to have the social distance and the masks. If those plastic/plexi separation are used, they are different from security hygiaphone : they are not fully separating. Marks are put on the floor (adhesive ruban). Outside waiting family rooms (usually ruled by an association) are not opened so far. More staffs are positioned in the visit area to supervise the whole process. So far, the deconfinement is limited to family visits and, for juveniles, compulsory school. Daily outside promenade and outside sport activities (if no contact) are still ongoing. The progressive following measures (activities) are under assessment for a progressive start post 2nd June.
Slovenia	We intend to re-establish visits in Slovenian prison system on Monday, 18th of May. Each prison facility needed to prepare its own protocol for re-establishment of visits. They have to implement standards as provided by the National Institute for Public Health. If there is an option they should provide visits on fresh air, visit through a glass barrier, visit around the table are also allowed (standards NIPH) ... Implementation of these options depend on capacities of each facility.
Italy	A decree issued on 10 May 2020 establishes that since next 19 May until 30 June 2020, prisoners are still allowed and encouraged to have video calls with their family members or telephone calls with them, even beyond the limits set by the Penitentiary Law and Regulations in ordinary situations. The prison Governor, in consultation with the Regional Director of the Penitentiary Administration of his territory and with the highest healthcare authority of the Region, shall establish the maximum number of visits in person which can be received by inmates. Each inmate is entitled to receive at least one visit per month with at least one visitor. The close cooperation at local level with the healthcare agencies is crucial, because the healthcare authorities indicate the criteria to follow in order to ensure the social distancing in the premises dedicated to the family visits. This will allow to set the number of visits per day which can be carried out in every visiting room in every prison in Italy.
Finland	All sports and exercise rooms and saunas in prisons will be opened as of 1.6.2020. If the prison unit has its own sauna, its use can be started immediately. The maximum number of persons in sports halls in the same time is 10 persons. The cleaning and ventilation of premises must be ensured after every instance of use. The use of prison libraries will normalize from 1.6, but the libraries will be visited by prison unit and maximum of 10 prisoners at a time. Remote lending will continue. Preparations are being made for the start of prison visits. At first, the visits would only concern the next of kin and the children of the prisoner. The opening of meetings requires special arrangements in prisons, as the occupational safety of staff is very important. The protection during the visits is ensured and respiratory masks are provided to the visitors. Skype meetings continue in prisons as usual. The expansion of work activities will begin as of 1.6.2020. The consequences of the easing of restrictions will be assessed and, if, for example, cases of Covid-19 occur in prisons, RISE will be prepared to decide on new restrictions. At the moment, there's no confirmed Covid-19 cases in Finnish prisons. The Preparedness group of RISE is working on a proposal for gradual removal of restrictions with prison directors. At the same time, the infectious status of the virus in society and the effects of alleviation in prisons will be assessed.
Cyprus	The way forward for visits, is to gradually allow up to 2-3 visits per inmate monthly, for those relatives/friends who meet the entrance criteria set out by the Department. Special vinyl/plastic desk shields will be placed in all visiting rooms in order for the inmates and visitors not to come into physical contact. Moreover, as previously mentioned, the visitors will enter the Department, only if the entrance criteria are met and the relevant formal declaration is signed by the relative/friend. Moreover, the current physical distancing guidelines provided by the World Health Organisation, will be met, as regards the number of visitors/inmates present in each visiting room.
Austria	Since 27 April we have a new regulation. This means that the restricted visitation of inmates will be possible again from 11.5. Several visitors may not be allowed to visit a prisoner at the same time, except for a visitor under 14 years of age and his adult companion.
Spain	The plan is to recover the ordinary penitentiary activity (visits, inmates outgoings, transfers, therapeutic activities), depending on the location of the prison and following the general sanitary instructions. Nevertheless, there are some specific rules. For example, visits are restarting, but limited to two people and avoiding physical contact.

#### What regime changes have you had to make and have any of these affected prisoner wellbeing and prison safety? (e.g. changes in self-harm; violence, drug use; mental health problems; relationships between staff and prisoners)?

Sweden	<p><b>Regime changes (a selection):</b> No visits (applies to friends and relatives, not lawyers etc.), no leaves from prison, isolation of infected or suspected infected. Persons sentenced to prison that are not incarcerated are denied of entering any prison or remand prison to start serving time if they show symptoms of Covid-19. Basic training for staff is postponed and the staff is instead deployed to prisons and remand prisons. Precautionary measures have also been imposed within the Probation Service. Physical meetings between the Probation Officers and the clients are, to the extent possible, avoided and replaced by other means of communication, such as Skype or Facetime. The Probation Officers will no longer visit inmates at remand, prisons or treatment facilities. Compensatory measures: free of charge domestic phone calls for inmates and remand prisoners (to approved numbers). International calls were initially free of charge but are now half the normal price. In order to ensure children's need for contact with their parents, tests are initiated to enable and provide video calls.</p> <p><b>Impact on prisoners:</b> Only a few incidents that can be directly related to the regime changes, but overall great understanding among inmates and good relations between staff and inmates. Rates of self-harm are a bit lower for the period (1st March to 12th May) 2020 compared to 2019. Rates of treats and violence towards staff, as well as rates of threats and violence among inmates, are a bit higher for the period (1st March to 12th May) 2020 compared to 2019. Rates of absconding from open regime prisons are a bit higher for the period (1st March to 12th May) 2020 compared to 2019.</p>
Spain	It is difficult to evaluate the situation in this moment, because we are still dealing with it. Nevertheless, one of the main measures undertaken -the increased use of electronic monitoring - has helped a lot in reducing the number of prisoners in closed regime and groups of inmates living together. Also, the use of mobile phones and video calls has been a significant change in our security regime. Maybe this changes have come to stay, but it is too early to know.

**Overall, which approach/es do you think have been the most and least successful in managing Covid-19 in prisons and/or for supporting a) staff and b) prisoners and why?**

Sweden No visits and no leaves from prison are likely the decisions that have contributed to limiting the spread of Covid-19 in the prisons and remand prisons to the largest extent. a) Continuous information to staff regarding Covid-19, measures taken and why. b) Compensatory measures to ensure contact with families as well as good relations between staff and inmates, focus on dynamic security.

**What are your plans for how you ease restrictions and move your prison into a programme of recovery?**

Sweden The Swedish Prison and Probation Service is still in the very early planning phase for the situation after Covid-19. However, the cessation of special measures related to the Covid-19 virus will happen gradually, and in line with national health policies.

**How have things in your prisons changed as wider public lockdown restrictions are lifted? What's worked to manage or respond to that change?**

Sweden Not applicable. The SPPS have stricter measures than the general society in Sweden, comparable to nursing homes etc.

**Are there any changes you have made as a result of COVID-19 that you intend to implement permanently? Why**

Sweden It is too early to answer how the prison system will change as a consequence of the pandemic.