At present it is not compulsory for inmates to wear masks in the Irish Prison Service. Inmates working have to follow the compulsory sanitary indications and have to wear face masks. That is not the case in the non working population.

Detainees and inmates in Belgian prisons are not required to wear face masks. Face mask is compulsory only when the detainee is in COVID-related isolation and needs to leave the cell.

In Estonia it is not compulsory for the detainees to wear face masks. Face mask is compulsory only when the person is in COVID-related isolation and needs to leave the cell. At the moment, all persons entering prisons (apart from prison staff and inmates from the respective prison) must wear facemasks during their whole stay in the prison.

In Latvia it is not compulsory for detainees to wear face masks.

Detainees and inmates in Lithuanian prisons are not required to wear face masks, except those in quarantine for 14 days.

Detainees and inmates in Polish prisons are not required to wear face masks.

Detainees do not need to wear a mask unless they have symptoms of respiratory infection.

Detainees and inmates in Spanish prisons are not required to wear face masks.

No. Currently short-term contactless visits (visitors and inmates are separated by the glass screen) of the same duration, frequency, etc. are allowed in the usual way as before COVID, long-term physical visits are not resumed.

Detainees and inmates in Italian prisons are not required to wear face masks, except those in quarantine for 14 days.

Yes. The idea is to recover the same situation as previously but progressively and depending on the situation of each region, which still changes day by day.

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Physical visits have resumed in the Austrian PS, but not entirely as before specially because of the requirements relating to hygiene and maintaining distance.

From 10 June 2020, representatives of the state and local government institutions are allowed to visit Latvian prisons, from 1 August visits of third parties will be resumed.
Physical visits resumed with new rules. 2 visitors from the immediate family for inmates. Video-visits and extra phone calls will continue to be offered though. Alternative modes of communication are still in place, like video calling. The detainee can choose between video calling or a face-to-face visit.

Inmates have a legal right to receiving visits. The Prison Act did not have to be changed. Though physical visits have been resumed, alternative means of communication are maintained. Prisoners have the opportunity to make additional telephone and video calls.

If not at pre-COVID levels (ie, frequency of visits, duration of visits etc) what arrangements are in place?

Spain
- As stated before, the aim is to achieve the same level of activity as before. Regarding sanitary measures and the infrastructure of each prison, this can be more difficult. That is why the number of communications could be sometimes a bit lower.

Austria
- On June 15th the Austrian PS has restarted visits to a limited extent concerning number and duration of visits because it requires more physical space and time to meeting the hygiene and distance requirements. We allow at present only one visitor at the same time per visit; an exception was made for underage children, who can come with an adult companion. Visits by lawyers, courts, probation, religious or professional services are possible again under the already mentioned specific conditions.

Latvia
- Short-term and long-term visits have been resumed. Inmates, serving their sentence in an open prison, may receive guests and leave the territory of the open prison in connection with employment (with the prior agreement of the relevant employer) or education. Currently, the implementation of interest and non-formal education programs and the organization of family days are resumed. From 1 August 2020 mental care and free time activities for prisoners involving third parties will restart.

Lithuania
- Long-term physical visits are not resumed. The duration of the visits are shorter. The visits are behind partition with very strict hygiene rules.

Israel
- Only visits without any direct contact are permitted lasting one hour a month. During the visit, one inmate can receive maximum three persons including children. Juveniles and open units’ prisoners are entitled to visits lasting one hour once a week. Visits take place under strict anti-epidemic measures. Upon entry to the prison, body temperature of each visitor is measured (in case it is more than 37 °C, the visit does not take place), his/her hands are disinfected and visitors must have their mouth and nose covered during the whole stay in the prison (facemask or scarf). Similarly, during the whole stay in the prison visitors must keep physical distance from other persons and refrain from any physical contact with the inmate.

Czech Republic
- The visits are carried out under strict hygienic rules. People entering prisons are measured body temperature and they are obliged to wear face masks. Facemasks are obligatory also for prisoners any time they are outside the cell. All the sanitary measures are applied during the visits: face masks, plexiglass, no physical contact, disinfection available, no possibility for the visitors to bring something to the prisoner, no possibility to buy food or drinks in the visiting rooms.

If physical visits have not resumed, have alternatives [extra phone calls, video-visits etc] been put in place

Spain
- Though physical visits have been resumed, alternative means of communication are maintained.

Austria
- Video-visits and extra phone calls will continue to be offered though.

Latvia
- Prisoners have the opportunity to make additional telephone and video calls.

Lithuania
- Alternatives are offered instead of physical visits

Netherlands
- Alternative modes of communication are still in place, like video calling. The detainee can choose between video calling or a face-to-face visit.

Slovakia
- Despite resuming the contactless entitlement visits, upon approval of the Minister of Justice, video-visits continue to be realised (via Skype), they are an alternative to the entitlement visits. The inmate, who, for any reason decides not to make use of the visit realisation, can request for a video-visit lasting 20 minutes. Similarly, the prison governor has a possibility to permit inmates in reasoned cases, especially inmates with minor children, a visit and a video-visit as well.

Czech Republic
- Extended phone calls are still possible, however the inmates don’t make use of them as much as it was in the time when visits were not allowed. Video visits are also still available and prisoners ask for them a lot. We facilitate about 10,000 video visits per a month.

Are visit entitlements set out in law, and if so, did the law need to be changed to give effect to COVID-related restrictions?

Spain
- We did not change the law, we only apply temporary regulations according to the general indications of the Government.

Austria
- Inmates have a legal right to receiving visits. The Prison Act did not have to be changed.
Visits of persons in prison are governed by the internal regulations of the Latvian Prison Administration. No changes were made to the legislation, LPA has issued separate orders regarding restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The visits are entitlements by the Israeli law every 2 months only for criminal inmates. However pre-covid visits were every 2 weeks according to the Israel Prison Service commands and orders. When we closed down the facilities on March and stopped the physical visits it was according to Israel emergency regulation.

Visit entitlements are set out in national legislation and Internal Rules of prisons. No amendments to the laws were initiated due to COVID-related restrictions. Temporary COVID-related restrictions in prisons were implemented by the Order of the Director General of the Prison Department.

The visits are entitlements set out in the Finnish law. Finland declared a state of emergency between 16 March and 16 June, during which it was possible to make restrictions to prison visits.

Are prison systems conducting visits in accordance with the European Prison Rules, or are they 'fitting their own circumstances'?

Spain The European Prison Rules are considered as before. The changes can affect the frequency, number of people and general conditions of the communication, according to sanitary indications.

Austria Both applies to the Austrian PS.

Lithuania Visits to prisons are regulated in accordance with the LPA internal rules.

Slovakia All measures implemented are carried out in compliance with recommendations of the CPT Committee (https://www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/-/covid-19-council-of-europe-anti-torture-committee-issues-statement-of-principles-relating-to-the-treatment-of-persons-deprived-of-their-liberty-) Possible differences relate only the elimination of transfer and spread of the infection among prison population.

Estonia National legislation and the European Prison Rules are respected.

Czech Republic The valid national legislation and the European Prison Rules are respected. Minor adjustments have been currently made within the orders mentioned above in question 4.

Finland Finnish prison system conducts visits in accord with the European Prison Rules.