



COVID-19 Feedback Collection 26 August 2020



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Table with 4 columns: Infected Prisoner, Infected Staff, Deaf Prisoner, Deaf Staff. Rows list countries like Lithuania, Belgium, Finland, Northern Ireland, Georgia, Cyprus, Hungary, Slovakia, Latvia, Slovenia, Poland, Norway, Czech Republic, Estonia, Sweden.

Netherlands: 1 confirmed C19 infection within the prison administration, 1 total confirmed C19 infection within correctional institutions for juvenile offenders, 1 confirmed C19 infection within a correctional institution for juvenile offenders.
Italy: 1 confirmed C19 infection within the prison administration, 1 confirmed C19 infection within correctional institutions for juvenile offenders, 1 confirmed C19 infection within a correctional institution for juvenile offenders.

Are there any special restrictions in Detention Centres during the pandemic?

Northern Ireland: We have moved to levels 2 and 3 of the prison and this has been in place since late March 2020. This restricts prisoner movement within the prison to the yard, but allows activities associated with social distancing...
Lithuania: At all times, the remaining restrictions concern visits, contact sports and rules in workshops. Visitors under the age of 12 are for example not admissible for visits...
Slovakia: The strictest anti-epidemic measures in prisons that had been in place during the State of Emergency in Slovakia: general prohibition of any prison visit, inmates could work only within prison...
Netherlands: There is no difference in restrictions and actions taken regarding the prevention of C19 between detention centres and regular prisons. The detentions centres and prisons are open again for new arrivals...

In the detention center open for new detainees to arrive 14 days in advance do you perform tests?

Belgium: Every new prisoner coming from the outside is being held in quarantine for 14 days and tested. The doctor of the prison decides if the prisoner who is being tested.
Northern Ireland: C19 has no influence on the arrival of new detainees. New arrivals are however isolated from the other detainees. They undergo a first test upon their arrival and a second test after 5 days...
Lithuania: New inmates spend 14 days in quarantine when they have tests done. We register new detainees according with the standard procedure. No tests are performed upon their arrival...
Slovakia: Inmates are already tested at the COVID-19 restrictions in the prison system. Finland did not resort into temporarily increasing the prison places capacity but instead halted and slowed down the flow of new prisoners...
Finland: Upon arrival of new prisoners an already checked by the healthcare personnel, but they were not automatically tested for COVID-19. In the arriving prison has similar symptoms of COVID-19, test is mandatory...
Belgium: Prisons are open as regular prisons. We do not perform routine tests upon their arrival but we register new arrivals to be isolated on separate wings (detention cells) for 14 days.

In the detention center open for visitors? Possible officers' clinics?

Northern Ireland: No. We took the decision to restrict people entering the prison to our staff and prison healthcare staff in March 2020. We also removed physical visits to prisoners at that time and in early April introduced virtual visits using Zoom technology...
Lithuania: Visitors, parole officers and visitors can access the prison with some limitations and they have to respect the social distancing rules. All the above mentioned persons are allowed to visit prisons, only if they have worn face masks and respect social distance.
Slovakia: Yes. Within anti-epidemic measures of entering persons are obliged to undergo contactless measurement of body temperature (the person is not allowed to enter if their temperature is over 37.0 °C)...
Finland: Finland introduced temporary COVID-19 restrictions in the prison system, concerning the prison visits in the beginning of April 2020. Visas and visits were initially banned, but lawyers, parole officers and other officials were allowed to continue their mandatory work...
Belgium: Up to 16.05.2020 there was no restriction. Prisons and detention centres are open for visits. All visitors must respect the anti-epidemic rules, wearing a face mask and tested by obligatory thermometer. A virtual visit via Skype is option for the inmates and detainees.

Are there Contact Visits to the Staff?

Northern Ireland: NPS does not facilitate contact visits.
Lithuania: No.
Slovakia: Yes, contact visits have been resumed.
Finland: Contact (inmate) visits are not carried out in Slovakia. We have only standard prison visits of those persons (at least 2 hours) monthly with presence of the prison staff.
Belgium: Because Finland has already dismantled all the temporary COVID-19 restrictions in the prison system, the prison visits and prison visits are operating normally, including contact visits in prisons.

How does the staff work?

Northern Ireland: We have put robust cleaning regimes in place, with temporary handwashing stations in each washroom. Good hand and respiratory hygiene is promoted, hand sanitiser is widely available and social distancing is available for use when appropriate...
Lithuania: Our staff works on their regular schedule.
Slovakia: Prison staff worked and work in the standard regime, with the exception that they must wear face masks (the prison bigger areas and much must be covered). There are also exceptions to this rule: movement outdoors with social distance at least of 2 meters, performance of work activities when it is necessary with performance at least of 2 meters, permitted medical visit.
Finland: COVID-19 restrictions and counter measures (e.g. regular hand washing, disinfective liquid etc.) are still in place concerning personnel. Staff health care are being reviewed being and quarantine is mandatory if relative symptoms appear. Staff works in prisons as they worked before COVID-19.
Belgium: We have not received measures in place to protect staff from the infection. They must have hand where possible and an eye visor if PPE cannot be used. We have been that this is our adjustment to avoid potential spread of the virus.