Health Considerations for Visitors to Prisons

Preventing the spread of COVID-19 in prisons is important in order to protect the health and wellbeing of staff, inmates, and visitors. These points below can help staff ensure that public health measures are maintained.

**PREPARE**

- Determine how prepared the facility is to receive visitors
- Conduct a risk assessment for the potential spread of COVID-19 within the prison
- Develop a COVID-19 Response Plan after risk assessment is completed

**RESTRUCTURE** for social distancing and to practice preventative measures

- Put in place a process, and designate an area to screen all persons entering the facility in keeping with national health authority’s guidelines
- Consider collecting information on history of fever and cough, difficulty breathing, and travel history from visitors in keeping with local and national authorities' policies
- Do not allow persons to enter if they are ill or have been in contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19
- Keep inmates and visitors 6 feet (2 metres) apart. Use physical guides, e.g tape on floors
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**INSTITUTE** the use of facial coverings

- **Use** facial coverings in keeping with prison safety protocols and the national health authority's guidelines

**CLEANING AND SANITISATION**

- Disinfect **frequently touched** surfaces and objects, especially in common areas
- Use recommended methods to clean and sanitise
- Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when cleaning and disinfecting, e.g. gloves, face masks

**COMMUNICATE** with visitors

- Ensure visitors see and understand the information displayed on posters and signs throughout the facility
- Inform visitors about the **impact of COVID-19** on regular prison visits
- Consider facilitating virtual/telephone visits, and/or establishing a hotline for visitors to the prison
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Remember!

Continue to review the national health authority's guidelines on specific COVID-19 prevention activities.

Get current information on COVID-19 from reliable sources, such as: Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

The full technical guidance document on Interim Guidance on Health Considerations for Readmission for Visitors in Prisons in CARICOM Member States can be found here.


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