Covid-19 Response in Prisons

Description

**Communicating hygiene awareness to prisoners**

Posters for inmates on how to limit the risk of contracting or infecting others have been disseminated and posted in all of Correctional Service of Canada’s (CSC) facilities. It also provides who to contact if an inmate exhibit symptoms of fever, cough or difficulty breathing. CSC is distributing additional soap, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer to inmates.

**Maintaining hygienic environments in facilities**

CSC has enhanced its cleaning protocols, including disinfecting common areas. In addition to active screening questions, everyone entering an institution must immediately wash/disinfect their hands on arrival. CSC is working with an Infectious Prevention and Control Specialist to continue to review its practices and procedures.

**Vigorous screening of visitors or restrictions**

CSC has suspended visits to inmates, temporary absences (except for medical escorts) and work releases. CSC is supporting inmates staying connected to family and community by video visitation or telephone, as well as looking at additional measures. CSC has waived telephone, accommodation and food deductions for inmates, and has provided additional minutes on their phone accounts. This will help them to continue connecting with family, friends, and other networks. CSC has postponed all non-essential entry and activities within CSC sites. Access to institutions is available to those performing critical services, such as medical and mental health, food services and cleaning services. Visitors and volunteers are not allowed inside institutions.
Regular screening and training of staff


Screening of parole prisoners on return

All temporary absences, unless medically necessary, work releases, inter-regional and international transfers of inmates are suspended. Parole violators returning to a CSC facility are treated on a case-by-case basis.

Establishment of quarantine/observation spaces at correctional facilities

Through its Business Continuity Program, CSC has developed and implemented activities that provides for the continuity and/or recovery of critical service delivery and business operations in the event of a disruption such as a quarantine. CSC has an Emergency Preparedness and Response Framework to address planning for an outbreak, which outlines plans, medical responses, equipment requirements, and protocols. Institutional health care services staff is prepared to handle cases of respiratory illnesses, such as COVID-19. In fact, CSC deals with influenza each year and has established protocols for medical isolation and treatment. Protocols for testing and providing clinical interventions are also in place. Where feasible, CSC is increasing telemedicine.

Reporting and treatment on identification of positive cases

CSC is establishing clear protocol and procedures with local hospitals for when inmates will be
transferred for care. The number of positive inmate cases are published on CSC website daily https://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/001/006/001006-1014-en.shtml.

**Screening of newly arriving prisoners**

CSC is actively screening inmates upon arrival. All inter-regional and international transfers of inmates have been suspended.

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**Point of Contact**

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Additional Covid-19 resources are available at: http://bit.ly/2U0oKLG  
If you would like to send us information about Covid-19, please fill in this form: http://bit.ly/2WnqiRH