Covid-19 Response in Prisons

Description

I must say that here in Israel we started to do some precaution acts at least 3 weeks ago in order to prevent the Corona Virus from entering our prison facilities.

These are the actions that we did in the past 4 weeks:

1. We made movies regarding personal hygiene for the inmates and for the staff.
2. We posted hygiene rules on the walls of the prison wards and near all the entrances to the prisons.
3. We gave the staff working inside the prison and the inmates lots of disinfectants and cleaning agents in order to clean the cells and the working environment often.
4. At the beginning we allowed visitation for inmates through a glass but as of this week there are no visitation.
5. As of the beginning of this week there are no entrance to all the prison from the outside. Only the staff is allowed in.
6. Before entering the prison or the head quarter everyone is being checked to see if he has fever. In case of fever he is not allowed in.
7. Every day the staff have to sign a declaration saying that they don't have any symptom, that they haven't been next to an ill person and that they haven't been abroad in the last 14 days.
8. We cut down with the not essential staff and send them home.
9. We minimized the inmates transportation out side of the prison. Only urgent transfer is being done.
10. It is not allowed to travel abroad to the staff.
11. We extended the shifts of the prison guards in order to reduce the swaps between shifts.
12. If a staff member saying he is not feeling good stays home.
13. We bought a lot of protection equipment to the staff, lots of drugs and disinfectants.
14. New inmates are being held in isolation ward for 14 days.
15. We prepared a section for sick inmates if we will be there. Hopefully we will not get there.
16. We have staff members who are in quarantine due to the fact that they were exposed to ill persons.
17. We keep posting at the social media information for the public and for the staff

______________________________________________________________

Point of Contact

Orit Shohat Mandel
Head of International Relation and Public Information Branch
Israel Prison Service
oritsho@ips.gov.il
(+97250) 6278980

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