Covid-19 Response in Prisons

Description
Measures taken by Correctional Services Bureau in response to COVID-19

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Correctional Services Bureau
Measures for the Prevention of COVID-19 in Coloane Prison

A prison is typically a facility with a dense population, thus susceptible to the impact of infectious diseases as they can transmit rapidly in the detention areas and cause unthinkable consequences. Therefore, to effectively prevent infectious diseases from entering prison facilities, it is essential to intercept the diseases at the source. Amid the COVID-19 epidemic, the Coloane Prison of the Correctional Services Bureau, as always, is vigorously adhering to internal systems and guidelines for the responses to infectious diseases. The various measures adopted by the Prison to prevent COVID-19 are as follows:

1. 環境衛生方面的措施
Measures for Environmental Sanitation

- In various detention zones, disinfectant mats are placed at the entrances. The entrances are washed and disinfected with diluted bleach and cleaned every two hours.

- Reinforcing the cleaning and disinfection of various detention areas, as in cleaning all facilities and public places with diluted bleach or Phoraid three times a day.

- Setting lidded rubbish bins in various detention areas for used face masks and protective supplies, and properly disposing of those used supplies afterwards.

- All vehicles entering Prison premises must go through a disinfectant pond for sterilization of the wheels.

- Upon the end of each visit to an inmate, the visit room and the handsets are disinfected with either a 1:99 diluted bleach solution or alcohol-dipped cotton balls.

- In areas with high-risk, protective measures are taken. For example, in new inmate medical observation areas, the ventilation and disinfection are enhanced.
Air purifiers are installed at high-risk areas, such as the medical observation area for newly arriving inmates, some quarantine zones for infectious disease cases and medical treatment area, etc.

2. 人員方面的措施  
Measures for Personnel

- 在監獄主要出入口，向局方所有職員進行體溫檢測，並提供酒精搓手液消毒。若有發熱及咳嗽等症狀人士，勸喻其及早就醫，並儘量安排工作崗位不與其他人有密切接觸；

At the main entrance of the Prison, temperature checks are performed on all staff members of the Bureau; hand sanitizers are also provided for their use. Staffers found with symptoms such as fever or cough will be advised to seek medical attention immediately, and if possible, arranged to work on a post with no close contact with other people.

- 為做足安全防疫措施，向接待崗位及押解人員提供護目鏡與保護手套。而在押解前，會對外出在囚者進行體溫檢測；而在押抵監獄時，在指定消毒區消毒，以防止外部感染；

Protective goggles and gloves are provided to frontline reception personnel and escort staff as proper protection against the epidemic. Before each escort, inmates heading outside will have their temperature taken. On their return to the Prison, they will be disinfected at a designated disinfection area to eliminate outside contaminants.

- 在接收新入獄者時，押送人員除配戴醫用外科口罩及保護手套外，還會穿著合適及足夠的個人防護裝備，包括一次性保護衣、透明面罩及 N95 口罩；

Aside from surgical mask and protective gloves, escort staff receiving new inmates will also wear sufficient personal protective equipment, such as the transparent face shield and the N95 mask.

- 於獄警人員每更列隊時作出簡報，提示時刻保持個人和環境衛生意識，尤其配戴口罩、勤洗手，密切留意自身健康狀況；若發現有發熱、咳嗽等不適而未曾就診者，應著其儘快就醫；而每天皆密切監控員工病情變化，提高對異常／群體疾病的警覺，及時作出通報；

Briefings are given during the line-up of prison guards in each shift, reminding them to always pay attention to personal and environmental hygiene, especially in terms of wearing a mask, washing hands frequently and closely monitoring personal health status. Those found with symptoms such as fever or cough but have not got treatment should be ordered to seek medical attention immediately. Staff members’ conditions are closely monitored on a daily basis; the alert for abnormal diseases or clusters is also raised for timely notification.

- 所有返回部門工作的員工，每天應於澳門特區政府指定的網上平台作出健康申
All staff members working in person at the Bureau should report their health status daily by using the online reporting platform of the Macao SAR Government.

- 為配合特區政府的防疫工作，員工必須遵守行政當局制定之個人預防措施，避免社交聚會。並在可行情況下，盡量減少平常會議，每位員工辦公及接待地點應保持空氣流通；而供員工使用的食堂，其座位經重新編排後可保持一定距離，慎防員工用餐時受到感染；

To dovetail with the SAR Government’s epidemic-prevention efforts, staff members must comply with the personal precautionary measures formulated by the Administration, e.g. avoid social gatherings. Regular meetings should also be reduced where possible. Workplaces and reception areas should maintain good ventilation. Seats in staff canteens are re-arranged in such a way that dining staffers are kept a certain distance apart from one another, preventing infection.

- 監獄各部門主管定時留意及更新由政府「新型冠狀病毒感染應變協調中心」發佈的資訊，特別是新增確診個案、社區傳播、最新防疫措施以及對公共部門最新的工作安排指引；

The management of the Prison periodically monitors the news updates from the “Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre” of the government, especially in relation to new confirmed cases, community transmission, the latest epidemic-prevention measures and work guidelines for public departments.

- 為防患於未然，一直以來懲教管理局皆行常性與衛生局及消防局組織「傳染病押解聯合演練」，以強化跨部門之間的溝通協作能力，以便讓員工能熟習及嚴格執行有關預防傳染病的工作指引和流程，在需要時能迅速啟動處理機制。最近一次的「傳染病押解聯合演練」於 2019 年 8 月舉行。

As a precautionary measure, the Correctional Services Bureau, the Health Bureau and the Fire Services Bureau regularly organize the “Joint Simulation Exercise on Escort of Inmates with Infectious Disease” to continually strengthen the communication and cooperation among government departments and familiarize staff members with the guidelines and procedures concerning the prevention of infectious diseases, so that in times of need, such guidelines and procedures can be implemented correctly and the response mechanism can be activated quickly. The most recent “Joint Simulation Exercise on Escort of Inmates with Infectious Disease” took place in August 2019.

3. 在囚人方面的措施

Measures for Inmates

3.1 向在囚人傳達衛生意識及疫情期間之安排

Communicating hygiene awareness and arrangements during the outbreak to inmates

- 為加強防疫信息及衛生宣傳，監獄定時開啓各區衛生廣播（四種語言），提示在囚者注意個人及公共衛生，並呼籲配合澳門特區政府的防疫措施，配戴口罩，勤洗手、打噴嚏或咳嗽時掩口鼻；
For strengthened promotion of epidemic prevention and healthcare messages, the Prison periodically plays broadcasts (in four languages) in various areas, reminding inmates to pay attention to personal and environmental hygiene, to cooperate with the Macao Government’s epidemic-prevention measures, and to wear a mask, wash hands frequently and cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing.

- 各囚倉區告示欄上張貼「預防新型冠狀病毒肺炎傳播措施」公告、通告以及宣傳海報；
  Announcements, notices and promotional posters concerning the “precautionary measures against the spread of COVID-19” are put up on notice boards of different detention areas.

- 透過全體廣播及工作人員講解形式，向在囚人介紹防疫和衛生資訊、疫情期間服務安排、情緒疏導和放鬆練習等內容，藉以加強他們的防疫衛生意識、舒緩因疫情產生的負面情緒，減低可能構成保安隱患的機會；
  Useful content regarding epidemic prevention and health care, the Prison’s service arrangements during the epidemic, and emotional relief and relaxation exercises are communicated to inmates through broadcasts and explanations by the staff. This is to raise inmates’ awareness of epidemic prevention and hygiene, as well as to alleviate their negative emotions amid the epidemic that may constitute security threat.

- 忠告所有在囚者，若感到身體有任何不適，應及時告知局方人員，以安排就醫及配戴口罩；
  All inmates are advised to notify the staffers of the Bureau timely when they feel unwell, so as for the Prison to arrange medical treatment and face masks for them.

- 所有在囚者離開囚倉時，須配戴醫用外科口罩，包括前往法院上庭、外部就醫及內部探視活動。
  On leaving the cell, all inmates must wear a surgical mask, including when they are en route to a court trial, medical treatment outside the Prison or a visit.

### 3.2 設立觀察區及檢疫區
*Establishing observation and quarantine areas*

- 監獄設有醫學監護觀察區，新入獄者會被隔離 14 天接受醫學監護觀察，當通過血液及肺部檢測後，才被轉調至其他區域與在囚者一起生活，以避免傳染病在監獄內散播；
  A medical observation area is established within the Prison. All new inmates are put under a 14-day medical observation, and will only be moved to another area and live with other inmates once passing the blood test and lung examination. This is to prevent any infectious disease from transmitting within the Prison.

- 除一般醫學觀察區外，就是次疫情亦設立一個臨時檢疫的特定區域(獨立囚室及洗手間)，以專門/集中收納被評定為高風險的新入獄者，並於該特定地點接受隔離 14 天的醫學監護觀察。
  A medical observation area is established within the Prison. All new inmates are put under a 14-day medical observation, and will only be moved to another area and live with other inmates once passing the blood test and lung examination. This is to prevent any infectious disease from transmitting within the Prison.
Aside from the general medical observation area, in response to this epidemic, a special quarantine zone (single cell and washroom) is also set up for high-risk new inmates to undergo the 14-day medical observation.

### 3.3 Screening of newly arriving inmates

- **Fill in Health Declaration and Report Travel History and Contact History.**
  
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- **Medical personnel conduct assessment and medical examinations.**
  
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- **To rule out any acute infectious disease, newly arriving inmates will also need to have a blood test and lung examination after the temperature check.**

- **For those having been to or coming from a country/region with relatively widespread community transmission of the novel coronavirus during the past 14 days, or those having been in close contact with a confirmed case will first be sent to the Conde S. Januário General Hospital for tests or medical isolation.**

- **If a newly arriving inmate is found to have symptoms such as fever, cough or other physical unwellness and is classified by a Prison doctor as high risk upon assessment, the Fire Services Bureau will be contacted immediately for arrangement of an ambulance transporting said inmate to the special emergency department of the hospital for the first test for the novel coronavirus. Only when the test result turns out negative will the inmate be escorted back to the Prison for admission procedure. A second nucleic acid test will be performed on the inmate on Prison premises within 14 days.**

- **A new inmate with no symptoms upon a preliminary examination will be escorted to the...**

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Prison as per the normal protocol. The inmate will then undergo the admission procedure and receive a health examination by a doctor of the Prison. As people infected with the novel coronavirus may be asymptomatic, to avoid any hidden cases, the newly arriving inmate in question will receive the first nucleic acid test in the Prison and receive the second nucleic acid test within 14 days. All samples collected will be immediately delivered to the hospital for tests for the novel coronavirus. Only those having passed the nucleic acid test and the lung examination twice will be transferred to other detention areas.

3.4 Screening of parole inmates on return

In the event of any parole inmates return to the Coloane Prison for incarceration during the outbreak of the disease, screening and handling of the returning paroled inmate will be carried out according to the procedure for new inmate admission.

4. Measures for Visitors

Visitors must wear surgical masks, have their body temperature measured and submit the personal health declaration before they are allowed into Prison premises. Those found with a body temperature higher than 37.5℃ on the spot will be denied entry into the Prison and advised to seek medical care as soon as possible.

Visitors should clean hands with hand sanitizer at the main entrance to the Prison.

In the critical period of the epidemic, the Prison suspended all visits, tours and NGO activities.

As the epidemic eases, the Prison has partially resumed visits. Nevertheless, to reduce crowd gathering and the risk of the virus spreading, the Prison only makes available non-contact visits (through handsets), reduces the frequency of such visits from once a week to once every two weeks and ensures a certain distance between seats at the visit
room. This serves to limit the number of visitors in the visit room at a time and lower the risk of infection.

- To avoid the concentration of visitors at the Administrative Building due to long waiting lines, a triage measure is in place in the building—no more than four people are received at a time. Visitors arriving later will need to take a quota tag at the waiting area and wait to be received in one small group after another.

5. 如發現確診病例之通報及診治的安排
Reporting and Treatment on Identification of Positive Cases

- On identification of positive cases, patients will be arranged to undergo medical treatment or observation at a designated location, as per the requirements of the Health Bureau of Macao.

除上述加強防範措施外，局方設有一支 24 小時運作的醫護團隊，及時跟進在囚人的健康狀況。同時，局方一直與衛生部門保持緊密聯繫，按照既定機制通報疑似病例，並送交採集檢驗樣本。當監獄發生群集性傳染病時，除適時調控應對策略外，更會通知疾病預防控制中心作協調跟進及處理。

In addition to the above strengthened preventive measures, the Correctional Services Bureau also has a team of medical professionals operating round-the-clock to follow up on the health of inmates in a timely manner. Furthermore, in constant communication with the health department, the Correctional Services Bureau issues notification for any suspected case and delivers samples as per the established mechanism. In the event of a cluster of infectious disease in the Prison, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention will be notified for coordinated follow-up action and handling, with the relevant response strategies adjusted from time to time based on the latest situation.