Covid-19 Response in Prisons

Description
Efforts conducted under General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses.

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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/2WngiRH
ADDITIONAL EFFORTS CONDUCTED UNDER GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF PRISONS AND DETENTION HOUSES

1- For the convicts/detainees and staff working in prisons, from 8.50 TL to 10.00 TL; for juvenile convicts and detainees held in prisons from 12.00 TL to 18.00 TL; for the children stayed with their mother, breastfeeding convicts/detainees and pregnant woman from 12.00 to 18.00 TL are increased. In this regard all the Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices have been instructed.

2- By attending the 3 meetings of the Scientific Board, their recommendations were taken in terms of measures that could be taken.

3- The execution of the decisions to continue with the education institution / program ruled until in order to prevent the intensity experienced in the Probation Directorates and referral procedures of the probationers to the health institution within the scope of article 191 of the Turkish Penal Code No. 5237, postponed until the same date, except obligatory cases. On the other hand; in order to initiate execution/enforcement proceedings, the letters are written under the notifications that the probationer is requested to apply to the directorate within 10 days are also postponed.

4- All Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices are instructed on ensuring that the money deposited by the convicts and their relatives through PTT (Post Office) is deposited/paid to the new temporary undated deposit fund account via a transfer / electronic funds transfer and on the money transfers to be made on behalf of convicts and detainees by direct transfer / electronic funds transfer by convicts and their relatives via opening temporarily a new checking account at public banks by each prison.

5- Necessary instructions were given by the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses to all the Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices about the working principles on staff.

6- Observing the hygiene rules in the cafeteria and canteen in prisons, wearing the mask and gloves of the staff working in these areas, paying particular attention to hand cleaning, performing all kinds of cleaning and disinfection processes in the cafeteria and canteen units without delay, closing all tea houses used commonly by staff and administrative units in prisons until further notice, considering the decision of the Ministry of the Interior to temporarily cease/close the activities of the barbers, hairdressers and beauty centers, all the Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices have been instructed.

7- In line with the Recommendations of the Ministry of Health Scientific Board, all the Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices have been instructed in the direction of the activities that postponement period has expired for 2 (two) weeks, is extended for another 2 (two) weeks.
8- All the Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices were instructed that administrative leave is given to staff in field service under our General Directorate without disrupting the service for the reason that their spouses worked under healthcare organization.

9- Within the amendment in bylaw on Execution of Penalties and Security Measures and Prison Administration, opportunity of videophone system is introduced. After necessary technical infrastructure is set up in prisons, the inmates would meet with their relatives by videophone system. Besides, the length of meeting is increased. The implementation of the videophone system will enter into force after technical infrastructure is completed.
EFFORTS CONDUCTED UNDER GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF PRISONS AND DETENTION HOUSES

1. With the general letter dated 02/03/2020, under the efforts conducted with Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Public Health, Department of Infectious Diseases, the prepared “2019-nCoV Disease Healthcare Professionals Guide” as a result of the Scientific Board Meeting is submitted to prisons and Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices.

2. With the general letter dated 09/03/2020, the articles/letters were submitted to all Chief Public Prosecutor’s Offices on the purpose of push notification for the General Directorate for the statements of the convicts and detainees who are suspected of being coronavirus in the prisons or to follow up determinations found by prisons and to take measures.

3. With the general letter dated 11/03/2020 in order to raise awareness of the prisons, probation services and staff training centers, necessary instructions have been given for hanging brochures and posters organized by the Ministry of Health at appropriate places in the institutions.

4. With the letter dated 11/03/2020, the necessary letters are exchanged to the Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Health Services that during the delivery of convicts and detainees taken to the prisons first time by law enforcement, the evaluation should be carried out in terms of coronavirus vitally in the reports taken by hospital and the convicts and detainees suspected in terms of coronavirus should not be sent to prisons before the observation and treatment of the hospital is completed.

5. To the Ministry of Interior with a general letter dated 12/03/2020, letters have been sent on referring the concerned convict/detainees to the health institution, during the first admission of convicts and detainees brought to the prisons by the Police and Gendarmerie personnel, in the case that international connection within 14 days is detected by making the necessary research on whether convicts and detainees have international connections before they are brought to prisons and on the time of last entry and exit to the country and on which country they are located.

6. With the general letter dated 12/03/2020, all the Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices were informed referring to the letters written in the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and additional letters were sent in order to pay particular attention to the issues specified in the reports issued in the hospitals under the first admissions of convicts and detainees.
7. With the general letter dated 12/03/2020, in order to ensure that the necessary measures are taken at the highest level in prisons, probation services and staff training centers, the general letters have been sent for disinfection of all vehicles in prisons, common areas, communal vehicles, visitor areas, individual and group work rooms in probation directorates, classrooms, seminar rooms and offices, for giving bleacher and liquid soap to all wards and hand sanitizers in suitable areas in the visiting areas.

8. With the general letter dated 14/03/2020, under the subparagraph (f) of the first paragraph of Article 6 of the Law on the Execution of Penalties and Security Measures No. 5275, Article 113 of the Regulation on the Execution of Penalties and Security Measures and Prison Administration and the decision of Ministry of Health Scientific Board, for the special measures need to be taken in prisons, general letters are submitted to all Chief Public Prosecutor's Offices and Probation Services on admission of convicts and detainees, visits, dispensations, spouse and family visits, staff leaves, transfers etc. In this context, all referrals and transfers other than health and safety and closed and open visits in the prisons were postponed for 15 days.

9. With the general letter dated 16/03/2020, in line with the Public Health Law No. 1593 and the decisions of the Scientific Board of the Ministry of Health, the letters were sent to the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on the opinions of the lawyer, the delivery of the goods sent to the convicts / detainees and the measures to be taken about the children stay with their mother in order to prevent infectiousness of the coronavirus.

10. With the general letter dated 13/03/2020, necessary correspondences were made in terms of the provision of thermal cameras, fever meters, disinfection materials, gloves and masks to the institutions in order to prevent the infectiousness of the coronavirus in prisons.

11. With the general letter dated 13/03/2020, the instruction is given to wear masks and to comply with the rules regarding hygiene for the staff working in prisons and other board staff and lawyers who should enter in obligatory cases.

12. With the general letter dated 16/03/2020, it was requested to pay attention to food variety in order to strengthen the immune system of the food offered to the convicts and detainees to prevent coronavirus infectiousness in prisons.

13. With the general letter dated 12/03/2020, it was decided to postpone all in-house and external seminars and group works to be made by the Probation Services until 4 May 2020 and notified to all the presidencies.
14. With the general letter dated 12/03/2020, it was instructed that the convicts and detainees who entered the prisons for the first time should be placed to the wards after being housed in an isolated environment for 14 days to prevent contact with other convicts and detainees.

15. With the general letter dated 16/03/2020, the training activities conducted at the Prisons and Detention Houses Staff Training Centers were postponed.

16. With the general letter dated 17/03/2020, all Rapporteur Judges working at the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses shared the prisons and information is obtained from the prisons in question at certain periods.

17. With the instruction dated 17/03/2020, the duty of auditing/supervision is given to the controllers working within the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses regarding the fulfillment of the instructions conveyed to the institutions/prisons.

18. With the general letter dated 18/03/2020, a letter has been written within the scope of regular disinfection of transport vehicles, compliance with hygiene rules, provision of liquid soap, gloves and masks in order to avoid material deficiencies in this context, the minimum number of staff, keeping the medicines from contracted pharmacies without delay at the prisons, probation services and staff training centers.

19. As of 17/03/2020, a letter has been written to the Ministry of Health on the appointment of additional doctors to carry out the examination in the prisons by family doctor or specialist doctor with the thought that the referrals of the convicts and detainees to the hospitals outside the institutions will increase the risk of coronavirus.

20. With the general letter dated 19/03/2020, in order to prevent the intensity in the probation directorates, until 04/05/2020, letters on taking measures within the scope of the individual interviews, seminars, group works, signature liabilities, free employment in a public interest and on cancellation of all kinds of meetings with the protection boards are written.