



Information on the Coronavirus COVID-19

What is Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

South African Government declare Coronavirus a national disaster

As part of Government's comprehensive plan to combat the spread of the coronavirus, protect citizens and minimize the impact on society and the economy, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act.

Part of the measures announced by the President include the temporary suspension of visits to correctional centres for a period of 30 days, to allow the Department to implement necessary precautions to protect officials, inmates and visitors from any risk of contracting the virus.

DCS plan to prevent officials and inmates from contracting the coronavirus disease

The health and well-being of officials, inmates and visitors is a top priority, and the Department is implementing all necessary

precautions to prevent potential health hazards, including:

1. All officials who travelled abroad since December 2019 to date are required to inform their supervisors immediately via telephone. Officials must submit photographed pages of their passports.
2. Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (i.e. heavy duty gloves, disposable gowns, N95 masks, protective eye shields etc).
3. Suppliers and selective public members who will be visiting all DCS offices and centres will be subjected to screening.
4. Ensure that reception and admission areas, cells, offices, vehicles and ablution facilities are sanitised daily.
5. Assigned officials who will sanitise hands of officials, inmates and selected members of the public at all entry and exit points in correctional facilities.
6. Install secure alcohol (ethyl alcohol 70%) based sanitizer dispensers at all points of entry and exit, and work stations.
7. Ensure the training of healthcare professionals, security staff and Emergency Support Teams.
8. Restrict movement of inmates where possible.
9. Ensure timely reporting of suspicious cases telephonically and in writing to relevant line managers.



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tips to prevent infection and spread of the virus



Wash

your hands well and often to avoid contamination

Cover

your mouth and nose with your arm when coughing and sneezing



Greet

with an elbow bump and keep a safe distance

Clean

and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces



Screening, isolation and quarantine

The Department has a team of qualified health practitioners and trained custodial officials who will remain alert to identify, screen, isolate and quarantine inmates who display symptoms of the coronavirus.

The Department will conduct mass screening and implement isolation/quarantine measures where applicable.

Signs and symptoms of coronavirus

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness. The following are some of the symptoms of Coronavirus:

Fever	Common
Fatigue/ tiredness	Sometimes
Cough	Common (usually dry)
Aches and pains	Sometimes
Runny or stuffy nose	Rare
Sore throat	Sometimes
Diarrhoea	Rare
Headache	Sometimes
Shortness of breath	Sometimes

How does it Spread (transmission)

- Person-to-person
- Droplets from the nose or mouth when a person with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or exhales
- Droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person
- Other people touch these objects or surfaces, then touch their eyes, nose or mouth
- Breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets

Who is at highest risk?

- The elderly and persons with severe underlying illness such as high blood pressure, heart disease, or diabetes.
- The elderly with other health problems.

Important contact information

Kindly direct any questions of uncertainty to the Head of Centre, and Supervisor in case of officials, or contact the

Coronavirus 24-hour hotline number on 0800 029 999.

For DCS specific enquiries, call the DCS Call Centre on 0860 000 327