

## COVID-19

### INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE IN CUSTODY – 23 MARCH 2020

The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) is following the national advice provided by Health Protection Scotland and the Scottish Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

The situation is changing fast.

COVID-19 is impacting all areas of life, including here in the prison estate. We have been considering all the necessary steps that we could take to reduce the risk of the virus spreading and difficult decisions have had to be made to protect the health of those living and working in our prisons.

#### What does that mean for me?

In our last letter we told you that there may be changes that will impact on your usual daily routine. With effect from tomorrow, Tuesday 24 March 2020, all prison visits will be suspended.

We are working on ways in which we can support you and your families to maintain contact during this time.

Critical agent's visits will continue to be facilitated for the time being. As Scottish Courts business reduces, it can be expected that these visits will also reduce.

The situation is changing fast. In response to the rising concern from those in custody and from staff about visits, together with the reducing number of people attending visits and with Public Health advice to stay at home, we feel this is the right thing to do to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. These changes are to try and keep you and your visitors well.

There may be further changes to your normal routine in coming days. We are looking at ways in which we can make changes to daily life to support you during this time. You should expect to have conversations with staff in the coming days to get your thoughts about what this may look like.

#### Preventing the spread of infection

You can reduce your risk of getting and spreading infections by:

- Not touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands;
- Maintaining good hand hygiene - washing hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds
  - **After coughing or sneezing**
  - **After going to the toilet**
  - **Before eating and drinking**
- Avoid using other people's personal items such as towels and vaping devices.
- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing into disposable tissues and disposing of them in the nearest waste bin after use.

If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to an Officer or a member of your local NHS healthcare team.