



Good Afternoon,

The health and wellbeing of everyone living and working in our prisons is a priority for the Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

We have had to make difficult decisions over the past couple of weeks which have had a direct impact on you but these have been done to try and prevent the spread of the virus. I know how hard this is and I appreciate your patience and understanding at this time. This is not something that any of us has ever experienced before and we are trying to find a way in which we can all live and work together and keep each other safe.

In order to keep you safe and to provide you with essentials such as food and medication, staff need to be at work and come into the halls. Please remember that they are also there to provide you with support and advice during this difficult time. You will see that many NHS & SPS staff as well as the hall pass workers are now wearing a mask, apron and gloves (and on occasion goggles) when they are carrying out certain tasks. This is to try and prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is for your protection as well as their protection.

I want to reassure you that staff are taking the appropriate and necessary safety precautions. The SPS is observing the same guidance as everyone in the community, where not everyone is expected to wear protective equipment at all times. You can help by keeping your living space as clean as possible and washing your hands as often as you can; hand washing is the most effective defence against the virus every prison has good supplies of soap.

The need for appropriate social distancing is being reinforced daily by the Scottish Government and we are doing the same with everyone living and working in our establishments. We are all being told to socially distance from others to reduce the risk of infection. It is crucial that where possible you must keep a distance of 2 metres from others; fellow prisoners and staff. If we all follow this advice, we will be playing our part in the efforts to tackle this virus.

These are challenging times and it is only by working together and looking out for one another that we will all come through this.

Governor-in-Charge

13 April 2020