

News story

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) prison preparedness: Lucy Frazer statement**

Minister of State Lucy Frazer QC MP has made a statement on preparedness to deal with coronavirus (COVID-19) in prisons.

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From: [Ministry of Justice](#)

[\(/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice\)](#), [HM](#)

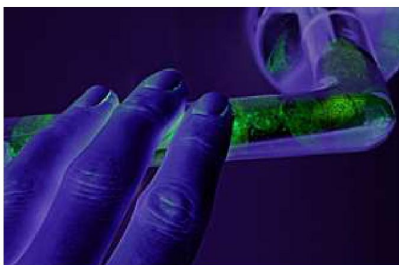
[Prison and Probation Service](#)

[\(/government/organisations/hm-prison-and-](#)

[probation-service\)](#), and [The Rt Hon Lucy Frazer](#)

[KC MP \(/government/people/lucy-frazer\)](#)

Published 12 March 2020



Lucy Frazer said:

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“ The Government is doing everything it can to combat the COVID-19 outbreak, based on the very latest scientific and medical advice. This includes in our prisons, where we are working closely with Public Health England, the NHS and the Department of Health and Social Care to manage the challenges we face.”

“ The safety and wellbeing of staff, prisoners and visitors is paramount and at the heart of our approach.”

“ Prisons have existing, well-developed policies and procedures in place to manage outbreaks of infectious diseases. This means prisons are well prepared to take immediate action whenever cases or suspected cases are identified, including isolating individuals where necessary.”

“ Basic hygiene is a key part of tackling the virus and good practice is being promoted on posters throughout the estate. Handwashing facilities are available to all prisoners – not just in cells but other shared areas such as education blocks and kitchens. Staff and visitors also have access to handwashing facilities and we have worked closely with suppliers to ensure adequate supply of soap and cleaning materials.”

“ We understand that prisoners and their loved ones might be concerned about the situation. But we can assure them that we will continue to operate normal regimes, with the minimum disruption, for as long as we can. This will include visits to prisoners but, in line with Public Health advice for the general public, we urge any friend or family member not to come to a prison for visit if they have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 - a fever or new, persistent cough. We are also looking into ways to keep prisoners in close contact with their families in all eventualities, and will share further information as and when necessary.”

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