Prisons and prescribed places of detention guidance

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

- new and continuous cough
- high temperature
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you need to self-isolate for 10 days.
If you live with someone who has symptoms, you need to self-isolate for 14 days from the day their symptoms started.

For most people COVID-19 will be a mild illness.
However if you have any of the symptoms you should be tested.

Stop the spread of coronavirus

Wash your hands more often and for 20 seconds

- Use soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:
  - arrive at work and get home
  - blow your nose, sneeze or cough
  - eat or handle food

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue away at once

Any prisoner or detainee with any of the COVID-19 symptoms should be placed in protective isolation for 10 days

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be notified by prison or immigration removal centre (IRC) healthcare teams as soon as possible to local Public Health England Health Protection Teams.

People who are severely unwell may be transferred to appropriate healthcare facilities with usual escorts and following advice on safe transfers.

Prisoners or detainees who have a new, continuous cough or a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of smell or taste but are clinically well enough to remain in prescribed places of detention (PPDs) do not need to be transferred to hospital.

Staff and visitors should be reminded to maintain higher than usual standards of hand-washing, respiratory hygiene and cleaning.

If a member of staff or visitor becomes unwell with any of the COVID-19 symptoms on site, they should go home.

Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using your standard cleaning products.

Staff should wear specified personal protective equipment (PPE) for activities requiring sustained close contact with possible cases.

If facing multiple cases of those displaying symptoms, ‘cohorting’ or the gathering of potentially infected cases into a designated area may be necessary.

PPD leaders should be assessing their estate for suitable isolation and cohorting provision.