

Management of acute respiratory illness in prisons and places of detention

Prison resident is symptomatic: recommend clinical review to ascertain whether case meets definition for coronavirus (COVID-19) or influenza.
(Older residents may not present with classic symptoms; consider diagnoses if there is a sudden deterioration in physical or mental health).

Isolate symptomatic cases and follow [COVID-19 in prisons and places of detention](#). Arrange PCR testing as soon as possible. If 2 or more cases inform HPT and test symptomatic cases for both COVID-19 and influenza – ideally using multiplex testing to include other respiratory viruses.

If epidemiological situation suggests influenza, HPT to consider antiviral treatment and prophylaxis prior to availability of test results.

Test Results

COVID-19 positive
Influenza negative

Influenza positive
COVID-19 negative

COVID-19 positive
Influenza positive

COVID-19 negative
Influenza negative

Arrange contact tracing, isolate cases and contacts (unless exempt) for 10 days, and follow guidance on [preventing and controlling outbreaks of COVID-19 in prisons and places of detention](#).

Outbreak control team to consider mass testing for COVID-19 at days 0, 7 and 28.

Consider stopping antivirals if started.

Outbreak can be declared over 28 days after most recent case.

Isolate cases until symptoms resolve (usually 5 days), isolate cellmates for 48 hours, and follow guidance on [flu in prisons and secure settings](#).

Assess need for influenza antiviral treatment and prophylaxis (if not already started).
Outbreak can be declared over 5 days after most recent case.

Isolate confirmed cases as appropriate for influenza or COVID-19.

Isolate COVID-19 contacts for 10 days (unless exempt) and all cellmates for at least 48 hours regardless of vaccination status.

Follow guidance on [preventing and controlling outbreaks of COVID-19 in prisons and places of detention](#) and [Flu in prisons and secure settings](#) guidance.

Assess need for influenza antiviral treatment and prophylaxis (if not already started).

Consider mass testing for COVID-19 at days 0, 7 and 28.

Outbreak can be declared over 28 days after most recent case.

Manage as clinically indicated.

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