

AP Covid-19 Update 25.3.20

There have been a number of issues raised by members and we have sought answers from your employers.

Individuals being released from custody

Concerns have been raised by members about individuals being released from custody to APs showing symptoms of Covid-19. We can confirm all residents are temperature tested on arrival to APs. Staff should always adhere to the social distancing guidance when carrying out these tests.

Shortage/lack of PPE

We have been informed the equipment should now be ordered by AP managers from the regional hubs.

Issues with wall mounted gel dispensers and hand gel

OCS & Sodexo (facilities providers) have committed to arranging for these items to be provided and installed as a matter of urgency. We expect this will happen by the end of the week.

Visitors to APs

From 25.3.20 All visitors to APs should be refused entry with the exception of those essential to maintain the safe running of the premises e.g. FM contractors or to perform assessments crucial to the management of risk of harm. Good practice is for all residents, staff and allowed visitors to be temperature tested every day.

Suspension of activities incompatible with social distancing

All activities within the APs which are incompatible with social distancing are suspended with immediate effect. Examples are; room searches, welfare checks, alcohol & drug testing, purposeful activities, key work sessions, and any other activity which requires close proximity. The only exception to this would be where staff are provided with the correct PPE and a risk assessment is undertaken and indicates the activity should proceed to maintain public safety and ensure safety of residents and staff. If you are unsure please seek advice from your line manager.

Non-compliance with staff instructions

Residents should comply with all requests from staff regarding social distancing, signing in and out of the AP and only being absent from the premises for no more than one hour per day. A failure to comply could lead to the withdrawal of the bed.

If there are concerns about these guidelines not being followed correctly please raise with relevant line managers and seek support from your branch reps where necessary. If issues cannot be resolved locally they can be escalated to me to raise centrally

Finally, please keep yourselves and your families safe.

Siobhan Foreman, National Vice Chair (sforeman@napo.org.uk)