



AD HOC QUERY ON 2020.17 Contingency plan to deal with infectious virus and diseases in detention centers

Requested by EMN NCP Luxembourg on 12 March 2020

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (23 in Total)

Disclaimer:

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1. Background information

The COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the latest discovered coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The contagion was declared on 11 March 2020 a pandemic by the World Health Organisation. As it has been proven that it is transmitted from person to person who are in close contact (less than 2 meters away and for a duration of 15 minutes), the risk that this virus spreads in close quarters (e.g. detention centers and prisons) is very high. Luxembourg is launching this urgent ad-hoc query in order to obtain information what kind of contingency plans do other Member States have to confront this kind of situation. The Luxembourgish authorities highly appreciate your collaboration in answering this ad-hoc query.

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The Luxembourg Detention Center will like to know the following:

2. Questions

1. Does your Member States have a contingency plan to confront the outbreak of a contagious virus such as the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?

Available choices: Yes, No

2. If you answer yes to question 1, which measures you apply in order to isolate a detainee who has contracted the virus?

3. If you answer yes to question 1, do you transfer the sick detainee to a medical facility, or you treat them in the detention center?


4. If you answer yes to question 1, do you provide protective gear you provide to your security and administrative staff? If yes, can you please explain.

5. If you answer yes to question 1, if you have a document that describe your contingency plan can you please provide a copy?

We would very much appreciate your responses by **19 March 2020**.

3. Responses

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		Wider Dissemination ²	
	EMN NCP	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."


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	Austria		disseminated further.
	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. The closed detention centres each have a limited number of "medical" rooms where ill people can be "isolated". If the number of ill people exceeds the number of "medical" rooms, they will be separated in another available room. As is currently the case throughout the country, Covid-19 tests are no longer carried out for people who do not need to be admitted to hospital. Residents are hospitalized if the doctor of the detention centre thinks this is necessary.</p> <p>3. There are different stages depending on government decisions. The medical services of the closed detention centres are responsible for the first-line care of residents with regard to the medical follow-up. Since March 13th, ill people are not transferred to a hospital unless the medical condition is so bad that it is deemed necessary by the centre's doctor. (e.g. for artificial respiration). On the date of 19 March, there were no cases yet.</p> <p>4. This is currently not the case due to the lack of material. Only disinfectants are available, and the necessary distance is maintained. If people fall ill, they will be asked to wear protection in case of contact with others.</p> <p>5. 1.Regarding the measures to be taken in closed institutions in relation to the Covid-19 virus, the official instructions are followed, which can be found on https://epidemio.wiv-isp.be/ID/Documents/Covid19/COVID-19_procedure_collectivity_FR.pdf 2.Development of an 'ad hoc' plan, which is continuously adapted according to government measures and the implementation of these. The Covid-19 measures exceed the ordinary control of infectious diseases for which there is an internal plan available. 3. For the detention centres, the "GIBBA" (Integrated policy regarding biological agents) has been put together in the past. See attachment. bijlage_19_gibbaplan_traddvzoenorah160210_fr.doc</p>


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	<p>EMN NCP Bulgaria</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. The Parliament of the Republic of Bulgaria has decided to introduce a state of emergency for the period 13 March 2020 - 13 April 2020 and has given the power to the government to take all necessary measures to handle the situation with coronavirus. A special law on emergency measures is to be adopted, as well as other special laws, regulating different areas of public life in the country, will be amended.</p> <p>On a national scale, general anti-epidemic measures in connection with coronavirus are determined by orders of the Minister of Health. These measures regarding detention centers, managed by the Migration Directorate in the Ministry of Interior, are also determined by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Orders of the Minister of Interior 2. Orders of the Director of the Migration Directorate 3. Internal procedures of the specialized homes for temporary accommodation of foreigners (detention centers) in connection with the organization of the work process in an epidemiological situation. These internal procedures are approved by the Director of the Migration Directorate. <p>There are rooms in the specialized homes for temporary accommodation of foreigners, where the newly arrived foreigners are accommodated. They are isolated in quarantine by all other foreigners for the period of 14 days in order to prevent a possible spread of infection. When the quarantine period expires and there are no symptoms of coronavirus, foreigners are moved to the common rooms where the other foreigners are accommodated.</p> <p>When there is a newly accommodated foreigner, a primary medical examination is performed by a doctor. The doctor follows a medical protocol for checking if there are coronavirus symptoms and completes a special form. All newly accommodated foreigners must be in quarantine for monitoring and isolated within 14 days. The foreigners that are in quarantine shall not be mixed with the other accommodated foreigners during meals and walks. There is a separate medical office for all newly arrived foreigners. External visits shall not be held during the quarantine. Currently foreigners may meet with lawyers, but contacts may be limited, if the epidemiological situation becomes more complicated.</p> <p>If there are symptoms of coronavirus, the doctor, who has examined the foreigner, must notify the responsible officers in the Medical Institute of the Ministry of Interior and reports the case by phone. The officer evaluates the reported symptoms and makes an assessment to send a specialized transport to take the foreigner to a hospital for a coronavirus test.</p>
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			<p>3. Until now there have been no cases of infected detained migrants with coronavirus in the specialized homes for temporary accommodation of foreigners. In case there are such cases, the foreigners shall be treated in a hospital.</p> <p>4. Currently, personal protective equipment is provided to employees who work in direct contact with newly arrived foreigners in performing their duties: medical personnel, police inspectors and interviewers, police officers from the security staff and service personnel for cleaning the premises and feeding the foreigners. Given the shortage of protective equipment on a national scale, personal protective equipment shall be provided to these employees until the required quantities are available. The equipment includes protective clothing, masks, gloves, glasses. The administrative staff is located in a neighboring building, which is outside the premises where the foreigners are accommodated. Therefore, masks and gloves are provided at this stage.</p> <p>5. We cannot provide copy of the internal plans/procedures because they contain information which cannot be disseminated.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Croatia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. Isolation of detainee will be organized according inputs of the Croatian Institute of Public Health, but so far, we did not have any case.</p> <p>3. We transfer the sick detainee to medical facility.</p> <p>4. In accordance with the instructions of the Croatian Institute of Public Health and the National civil protection headquarter, all employees of detention centers use protective equipment (gloves, mask, suits and alcoholic liquids against infectious diseases). Education for self-protective behavior on workplace was held.</p> <p>5. We have a contingency plan, but there is not special plan for detention centers. The centers act in accordance with the instructions of the National Civil Protection Headquarters and Croatian Institute of Public Health.</p>


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	EMN NCP Cyprus	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	EMN NCP Czech Republic	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No The Czech Republic has in each detention centre (there are 3 in the CZ in total) available several isolation rooms in case of a detection of any infectious disease. In these times, facing the pandemic of the mentioned virus, the Czech Republic established one facility designated for the preventive stay and testing of all new detainees. This facility is staffed by medical personnel equipped with all possible protective equipment usually used in medical facilities. 2. See above 3. See above 4. See above 5. See above
	EMN NCP Estonia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. In case of an emergency isolation, as a first thing the staff is required to isolate the detainee from others after noticing symptoms. Then notify related authorities (i.e. emergency workers and local medical staff) and ensure the safety of themselves and others with protective equipment. The head of the detention centre will be informed immediately and then rest of the staff. If there is a need to transport the detainee to a medical facility, safety of the staff will be ensured, followed by instructions of the medical staff or emergency responders. 3. The detainee is transferred to a medical facility if it is required by the medical staff of the detention centre



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			<p>and/or the responding paramedics.</p> <p>4. Facemasks, protective eyewear's and bodysuits are provided to the staff members who are in contact with infected person.</p> <p>5. Document is for internal use in the Police and Border Guard Board and is available only in Estonian.</p>
	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. Yes General Pandemic contingency plans exist and are applied, but there is no national plan specifically for Detention Centres. DC's have, in cooperation with the Finnish Immigration Service, started Ad hoc COVID-19 contingency planning in January 2020 and are now following their local drafts.</p> <p>2. A detainee with SARS-CoV-2 infection is accommodated, depending on facility, either in a separate room with personal lavatory or in an isolation room with personal lavatory. If the number of detainees with symptoms of COVID-19 exceeds the number of available separate rooms, entire sections or floors of the facilities can be separated from the rest of the unit for this purpose (infirmary).</p> <p>3. The sick detainee is treated in the Detention Unit unless hospitalizing is necessary.</p> <p>4. Yes, protective gear is provided: Protective gloves and masks / surgical masks / respirators for security and administrative staff and a wider range of gear (the mentioned and additionally eye protectors and protective clothing) for health care staff.</p> <p>5. Unfortunately there is no English translation available, but we are happy to answer any particular questions you might have on the topic.</p>



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	<p>EMN NCP Germany</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. No There are generally plans for the outbreak of diseases in German detention facilities. But those responsible in the nine federal states that have accommodation facilities for foreigners who are obliged to leave the country are totally engaged to fight the danger from the virus. So in the moment no information regarding current measures against Corona is available.</p> <p>2. n/a</p> <p>3. n/a</p> <p>4. n/a</p> <p>5. n/a</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Greece</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. From the beginning of the COVID-19 spread till today, there has been no case of contagion in Detention Centers in Greece. In case of an incident, the person will be isolated in a separate area created specifically in the detention facilities. Source Hellenic Police HQ</p> <p>3. In every detention center, the special scientific staff (doctors, nurses, social workers etc.) who are available on a daily basis, will carry out the diagnosis of the disease according to the specific guidelines of the National Public Health Organization. If the sick detainee is confirmed as a COVID-19 case, he/she will be quarantined inside the detention center and will be transferred to a medical facility only after this is indicated by the medical staff of the detention center. Source Hellenic Police HQ</p> <p>4. The protective gear such as disposable plastic gloves, protection masks, disposable protective overalls and</p>

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			<p>antiseptic fluid are distributed to everyone working in the detention centers. Source Hellenic Police HQ</p> <p>5. The contingency plan is based on the special guidelines and directives from the National Public Health Organization and the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, and it is not available. Source Hellenic Police HQ</p>
	EMN NCP Hungary	Yes	1. No
	EMN NCP Ireland	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. The following information is background information to clarify question 1. Background Information Immigration-related detention Ireland does not operate immigrant detention centres. Places of detention for immigration-related reasons include prisons, or Garda stations, in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Acts and the International Protection Act 2015. Immigration related detainees, persons awaiting deportation or return to country of origin, will be subject to the provisions in place for the general population of the particular place of detention. See- https://www.irishprisons.ie/</p> <p>Reception system As Ireland does not operate detention centres, information is also offered in relation to contingency planning for the reception system. Ireland accommodates protection applicants in both permanent accommodation centres across the State and in temporary emergency accommodation centres, which have been used to provide emergency accommodation on a temporary basis due to lack of capacity within the permanent reception system.</p>


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			<p>Such accommodation is provided to those protection applicants who indicate that they require material assistance and cannot provide for themselves. Protection applicants may leave the accommodation at any time if they find their own accommodation.</p> <p>All accommodation centres also link in with other state service providers such as the Health Service Executive, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.</p> <p>Ireland has published a Government National Action Plan regarding Covid-19, available at: www.gov.ie/covid19. Action 15 refers to Immigration Service Delivery and includes the commitment to:</p> <p>Develop self-isolation protocols for applicants in accommodation centres who are affected by COVID-19 and manage impacts.</p> <p>The following arrangements are being made by the Department of Justice and Equality in respect of accommodation services for international protection applicants:</p> <p>“The Department of Justice & Equality has met with the NGO community to identify what supports they may be able to provide in the case of a COVID-19 outbreak. Additional temporary accommodation is being sought to help provide contingency beds in Accommodation Centres.</p> <p>A specific team is established to manage issues relating to COVID-19 in accommodation provided by the State. In accordance with best practice, contingency planning is in hand to address any issues arising in Direct Provision centres. Health Service Executive (HSE) Information notices have been circulated to all accommodation centres and translations have also been provided. Risk assessments have been issued to centres and, in consultation with the HSE, this information is updated on a daily basis and any changing circumstances are responded to effectively.</p> <p>All international protection applicants living in emergency accommodation have been contacted in writing, to ensure they have an appropriate understanding of the HSE guidelines and that they know who they can call if they have concerns. Centre Managers have also been contacted in writing to with information in relation to contingency planning, while useful material from the HSE has also been circulated to centres.</p> <p>Officials from the Department responsible for the provision of accommodation for persons seeking international protection are in regular communications with all our permanent and temporary accommodation centres and also liaise with the HSE and follow its advice.</p> <p>To ensure the safety and wellbeing of asylum seekers, the Department is in the process of transferring applicants from commercial emergency accommodation in hotels to dedicated accommodation centres. This is one aspect of the Department’s overall emergency response to COVID-19.”</p>
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			<p>The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (www.hpsc.ie) has published Guidance for Vulnerable Groups Settings – https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/vulnerablegroupsguidance/ This guidance document gives general advice about preventing the spread of COVID-19 in settings for vulnerable groups, such as Homeless, Travellers, refugees/asylum seekers and others. The measures outlined are mainly focused on congregate settings or facilities managed by staff and can be applied in direct provision centres, hostels, hubs or residential settings including those without clinic or in-house nursing, medical or healthcare support.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Italy</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. The Ministry of the Interior has issued several circulars to ensure the prevention and containment of the spread of COVID-19 within the reception facilities and detention centres for repatriation. Appropriate and pre-identified areas of the centre, or, if necessary, new facilities, are dedicated to host individuals placed in individual quarantine. As requested by the Ministry of the Interior, managing organisations are required to take all steps to implement the necessary hygienic and sanitary requirements. This include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • constant medical screening of all migrants detained, including a preliminary screening in case of new arrivals, in order to detect any COVID-19 symptomatology; • informing migrants, through cultural mediators and translated informative material, on the conduct that shall be adopted to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19; • keeping a safe distance of at least two meters during the interviews; • providing personal hygiene products; • cleaning and sanitizing regularly the premises. <p>3. If the detainee present coronavirus symptoms, he/she will treat in public medical facilities. This is valid for all medical problems in general, in order to safeguard individual and collective health, as the Immigration Law provides in art. 35 "Foreign citizens present on the national territory, who do not comply with the rules on entry and stay, are insured, in public and accredited facilities, urgent or essential hospital treatment, even if continuous, for illness and injury, and preventive medicine programs are extended to safeguard individual and</p>





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			<p>collective health”.</p> <p>4. Yes, managing organisations shall ensure that all personnel is equipped with protective gear while delivering their services in migration centres, including detention centres for repatriation.</p> <p>5. The Ministry of the Interior has issued several circulars letters to the Prefects, to follow up the decisions took by the Government during the emergency, in order to ensure homogeneous measures in reception facilities, among which the detention centres for repatriation. As we only can provide scanned copies in Italian, if you need some of them, please contact directly Stefania Nasso in order to identify the ones you are interested in.</p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. No There is no special contingency plan for detention centers to confront the outbreak of a contagious virus such as the COVID-19 adopted in Latvia. The State Border Guard as institution supervising detention centers for foreigners in Latvia follows the instructions given by the Ministry of Health and the State Emergency Medical Service.</p> <p>2. A detainee who has contracted the virus is isolated from the other detainees and a medical person in the center calls the State Emergency Medical Service.</p> <p>3. The transfer depends on the state of health of the detained person. The decision on transfer of detainee will be taken by medical person.</p> <p>4. Security and administrative staff of detention centres are equipped with protective gear (masks, disinfectants, safety glasses, gloves, antibacterial agents, overalls etc.).</p> <p>5. See answer to Q1.</p>



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	EMN NCP Lithuania	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No 2. N/A. 3. N/A. 4. N/A. 5. N/A.
	EMN NCP Netherlands	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	EMN NCP Poland	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. We have not any confirmed contracted foreigner who is placed in a guarded centre/arrest for foreigners yet. But, in case of a foreigner who has contracted the virus, appropriate sanitary services should be informed and examinations carried out. They take a foreigner from detention center to an isolation hospital and follow their own guidelines. Quarantine decisions are made by appropriate sanitary services. 3. As above (answer to the question no. 2).


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			<p>4. Officers and employees of the guarded centres or arrest for foreigners, as well as foreigners staying in these centres/arrest were provided with appropriate disinfecting preparations and hygiene products, also protective masks</p> <p>5. We have the sanitary services guidelines relating to confront the outbreak of a contagious COVID-19 virus. We do not have such a document translated into English.</p>
	EMN NCP Portugal	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. If there is a suspicious case, the detainee will be sent to an isolation room, different to each gender, with access to a toilet and shower and a dining area; there is also an isolation room for employees.</p> <p>3. If there is a confirmed case, the detainee will be transferred to a hospital or treated on site maintaining isolation, but in all cases the instructions issued by the national public health authority are followed.</p> <p>4. Personal protection equipment (mask, gloves, hand sanitizer, and a kit containing a mask, glasses and an isolation gown with sleeves) is provided for those who have to deal directly with the patient.</p> <p>5. In attachment. It is only available in Portuguese language so far; please do contact us if you need us to translate it, and we'll do it asap. uhsa_-_plano_sectorial_covid_19_-_vr_1.pdf</p>
	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>In cases of an outbreak of contagious diseases such as the COVID-19, the Slovak Republic follows the measures ordered by the Government of the Slovak Republic which can do so in case of a state of emergency. Thus, Slovak Republic does not have a special contingency plan but has specific instructions in such cases. This procedure also</p>


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			<p>applies to detention centres for foreigners. All cases of virus infected foreigners are placed in isolated premises and required medical assistance is provided. All other detained foreigners and personnel are equipped with protective gear in order to prevent the virus from spreading.(See the attachment) lu_ahq_contingency_plan_to_deal_with_infectious_virus_and_diseases_in_detention_centers_sk_response.docx</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovenia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes The detention centre for third country national in Slovenia has prepared a contingency plan for preventing the outbreak or expanding of COVID-19 in the facility, among the detainees and staff. The measures in the detention Centre are just a part of a general/main plan how to handle newly arrived irregular migrants to Slovenia.</p> <p>2. Regardless, if a person indicates any sign of the disease, he undergoes a medical check and an interview about his whereabouts of the last 10 days. If a sign of the COVID-19 is indicated the person will be tested (few cases so far). During the waiting time for the results they would be lodged in containers that are placed close to the detention facility - max 24 hours (all cases were negative). All newly arrived detainees and despite the negative result they are placed in separate rooms for medical observation that lasts from 6 to 8 days. The rooms have bathrooms and the food is provided to the rooms. After that period, they will be placed to appointed departments.</p> <p>3. Since we had no cases of infected detainees or staff so far, we are not able to share any experience. According to the contingency plan the doctor/epidemiologist would suggest the best solution for treatment of the</p>


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			<p>infected person. We have prepared three separate rooms in separate departments for such cases.</p> <p>4. Part of the preventive measures includes protective equipment for all staff of the detention centre. It is an obligation for everyone to wear gloves and masks inside the facility. Protective glasses (goggles) are used if there is an indication that the newly arrived person is infected with COVID-19.</p> <p>As a part of the preventive measures we minimised the daily leisure activities with the detainees as well.</p> <p>5. Unfortunately, the copy of the document would not be beneficial for you since it is in Slovene language and the content of it applies to other Police activities as well. The main areas connected to detention centre is explained above. For any further or specific information please do not hesitate to contact our NCP (sabina.hrovatin@gov.si)</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Spain</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. No Some detention centres have rooms especially reserved for detainees with contagious diseases (tuberculosis, scabies). However, currently all Spanish detention centres are being emptied since there is no reasonable perspective of return to justify detention. We already have some judicial sentences in that direction.</p> <p>2. The especially dedicated rooms are used. However, only a few coronavirus cases have appeared in the centres. Since they now have a very limited occupation rate, enough empty rooms are available. This is only a temporary solution since adequate reception facilities are being sought for all detainees and the centres will be emptied.</p> <p>3. This depends exclusively on the indications given by the hospitals. Some cases are in hospital, some remain or are back in the detention centre. It must be born in mind that currently, in general, only very serious cases are admitted to hospital; the rest of the sick population is treated at home.</p> <p>4. Yes. Masks and gloves are provided, as well as the necessary distancing and separation measures.</p> <p>5. No</p>

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	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Yes2. He/she will initially be isolated within the detention center awaiting instructions from the health care. The regional doctor for infectious disease control should be contacted.3. That is up to the health care/the regional doctor for infectious disease control to decide.4. No information available. This is not included in the contingency plan.5. The document is an internal support document for the Swedish Migration Agency and is only available in Swedish.
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