



Protective quarantine units established as a precaution

Corrections Victoria has established protective quarantine units across five prisons as a further management measure against the risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

From Saturday, 28 March 2020 until further notice, all prisoners coming into the Victorian prison system will be required to spend 14 days in a protective quarantine unit.

The protective quarantine units have been established at all prisons that receive new prisoners into custody – Melbourne Assessment Prison, Metropolitan Remand Centre, Port Phillip Prison, Ravenhall Correctional Centre and Dame Phyllis Frost Centre.

Prisoners in these units will be supported with access to in-cell phone calls, video-based visits, books, education material, printed exercise routines and TVs.

Prison and health staff, including Aboriginal Liaison Officers and specialist mental health services, will regularly check in and monitor the health and wellbeing of all prisoners, including vulnerable and high-risk people.

Corrections Commissioner Emma Cassar said the decision is necessary to ensure all appropriate steps are being taken to manage the evolving risk of the virus to the prison system and the safety of staff and prisoners.

“This measure applies to people who have been out in the community these past few weeks and that bring that exposure risk with them into custody.”

“We are working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services, our staff, prisoners and all relevant authorities to ensure we’re taking the measures needed to protect everyone’s health.”

The new measure does not apply to existing prisoners who are currently accommodated or who are transferred to the five prisons.

Existing management measures, including quarantine protocols, remain in place across the prison system for all other prisoners.

There are currently no confirmed cases of the virus within the Victorian prison system, and Corrections Victoria is continually reassessing its management measures across the prison system.