

www.eurofedop.org



Priority injections – why prison officers should be prioritised for Covid-19 vaccination



It is imperative for national prison services to conduct policies aiming at keeping prisons coronavirus-free by putting in place structural adjustments that make it possible to achieve that aim.

With a view to minimising the risks for both staff and inmates, prison officers are engaged everywhere in Europe in an unseen battle against Covid-19 on an hourly basis.

At an early stage, staff should be advised of what precautions to take if the outbreak of a virus presents itself in one of the country's prisons.

A strict set of protocols has to be followed, similar to settings such as hospitals, social healthcare institutions, ... where maximum security plans are developed to keep the virus out of the facility.

It is the strong view of Eurofedop that all frontline prison staff should be prioritised for vaccination at the earliest possible opportunity.

The alternative, by which the prison system risks to collapse, is unthinkable. Governments have a clear responsibility in ensuring the safety of the prison estates.

Prison staff should not be the forgotten heroes of the pandemic - you won't get any more frontline than facing a landing of prisoners in full PPE for a 12-hour duty.



Eurofedop statement, following the declaration on the Irish situation by Gabriel Keaveny, Assistant General Secretary of the Prison Officers Association, in The Irish Sun