



AD HOC QUERY ON 2021.60 Vaccination against COVID-19 of third-country nationals placed in the detention facilities

Requested by EMN NCP Czech Republic on 5 October 2021

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (24 in Total)

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1. Background information

The vaccination against Covid-19 of the persons who wish to be vaccinated seems to be a way how to overcome the pandemics to some extent. Relevant authorities of the Czech Republic (Ministry of Interior, Refugee Facilities Administration, and Ministry of Health including public health authorities) are currently discussing the possibility to offer the COVID-19 vaccines to the detained third-country nationals. The main goal of this activity should be to reduce the possibility of the virus spreading in the facility. Last but not least, we also take into account the added value of vaccination for the detainees, but also for society as such.

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The preliminary conclusions of the expert's discussions from the authorities mentioned above show that the possible vaccination against Covid-19 in the detention facilities is feasible in the Czech Republic under the following conditions. The vaccination should be done only on a voluntary basis and with the informed consent of the person concerned. Moreover, only the types of vaccines agreed by EMA (European Medicines Agency) should be used. The experts from the Ministry of Health and the relevant Public Health Authority prefer to use one dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson). Nevertheless, the other types of two-dose vaccines may be used as well. A problem may occur when the detention of the person in question is ended before the second dose of the vaccine is applied.

The other crucial point identified by the experts to address is the way how to finance the vaccination. The necessary and urgent health care is provided to the detained persons by law (Act on Residence of Foreigners). Nevertheless, the question of whether the vaccination against Covid-19 may be classified as an urgent and necessary health care has not been answered conclusively among the different stakeholders in the Czech Republic.

The decision whether the vaccination against Covid-19 in the detention facilities will be realized and under what conditions falls under the responsibility of the Public Health Authority. The relevant Public Health Authority has asked for information on how the vaccination in the detention facilities is organised in the Member States. The information on the situation in the Member States regarding these issues will serve as one of the background documents for the final decision. Against this background, we would very much appreciate the answers to the following questions.

2. Questions

- 1. Does your Member State provide access to vaccination against Covid-19 for third-country nationals who are placed in the detention facilities? YES/NO.**
- 2. If you answer YES to question 1, can you please indicate which type of vaccine are you using (e.g. Pfizer-Biotech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson) and how are you financing it?**
- 3. If you answer YES to question 1 and if your Member State is using double dose vaccine, how your Member State ensures that persons concerned complete the vaccination scheme in case the detainee is released before the second dose?**
- 4. In case you answer NO to question 1, is your Member State planning to vaccinate those persons against COVID-19? YES/NO. Please explain the reasons for both answers.**



We would very much appreciate your responses by **5 November 2021**.

3. Responses

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		Wider Dissemination ²	
	EMN NCP Austria	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 Belgium	Yes	<p>1. Yes. But vaccination only happens on a voluntary base. Residents are very often reluctant to get vaccinated. In most detention facilities, new residents are informed during intake by the medical unit about the importance of getting vaccinated. However a lot of residents fear that vaccination will enhance their forced return and therefore refuse to get vaccinated.</p> <p>2. In the Walloon region (one detention facility): only Pfizer In Flanders (other detention facilities): Older than 41: Johnson & Johnson (one shot). Younger than 41: residents can choose, but the medical unit advises the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. → A large majority of the residents in detention facilities that were vaccinated, got vaccinated with Johnson & Johnson, only a few residents received the Pfizer or Astra</p>

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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			<p>Zeneca vaccine.</p> <p>Financing: The vaccination centres provide free vaccines. The vaccines are administered by the medical unit of the detention centres.</p> <p>3. Residents of detention facilities are advised to choose the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (one shot). In the very few cases that a resident chooses Pfizer or Astra Zeneca, a removal (or release) is possible before the second shot.</p> <p>4. NA</p>
	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. No. According to the current order of the Minister of Health, there is vaccination for foreigners with granted residence permit in Bulgaria. However, at present, there is no vaccination against Covid-19 for illegally staying foreigners accommodated in the special homes for temporary accommodation of foreigners (detention centers) which are part of the Migration Directorate and it is not planning to vaccinate those persons against Covid-19. There are free testing and free treatment for illegally staying foreigners infected with Covid-19. There are also strictly anti-epidemic measures which are applied at the special homes for temporary accommodation of foreigners. These anti-epidemic measures are recommended by the State Health Control Sector at the Medical Institute of the Ministry of Interior.</p>




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	<p>EMN NCP Croatia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. No. Since migrants do not have their identity documents and declare false identity data, epidemiologists do not want to take responsibility for vaccinating migrants who may have already been vaccinated in the Republic of Croatia or another country, and the same cannot be verified with certainty.
	<p>EMN NCP Cyprus</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes CY provides free of charge vaccination services against Covid-19, to all third country nationals present in the territory including those in detention. 2. Usually the Pfizer-Biotech vaccine is administered. The vaccines are administered free of charge by the National Health Services. 3. If a detainee is released before the second dose has been administered, he/she is handed over his/her vaccination card with the appropriate information and directions on the appointment for the second dose. 4. N/A



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	<p>EMN NCP Czech Republic</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NO. 2. 3. 4. Yes, we are planning to vaccinate these persons for the reasons mentioned in the background information above.
	<p>EMN NCP Estonia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board enables to vaccination against Covid-19 to all third country nationals placed in the detention centre. Access to vaccination has been provided since September 2021. 2. We are using Vaccine Janssen and it 's financed from the state budget. 3. We are using only Vaccine Janssen, which is one dose vaccine. 4. N/A
	<p>EMN NCP Finland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES 2. Our social and health district uses Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech) or Moderna vaccines. The vaccinations are financed from the detention unit's budget (by the state).


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			<p>3. We will give them information on how they can complete the vaccinations and we also give them a certificate of their vaccination, if they need it.</p> <p>4. -</p>
	EMN NCP France	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 Germany	Yes	<p>1. To date, not all of the Federal States (<i>Bundesländer</i>) that operate detention centres (not every state has a detention facilities at its disposal) offer an opportunity to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to detained third country nationals (Lower Saxony, Bavaria, Rhineland-Palatinate). However, some federal states are in the process of introducing such a procedure (Bremen, Hesse).</p> <p>Federal States without access to vaccination against Covid-19 for third country nationals: Hamburg, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Saxony, Berlin. North Rhine-Westphalia did not provide an answer. Schleswig-Holstein pointed out that this question has not been risen before. This is because either all of the detainees were fully vaccinated or did not stay long enough to provide them with double-dosed vaccination. Therefore, Schleswig-Holstein does not store any vaccine in its detention facility.</p> <p>2. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is most commonly used. Due to generally shorter accommodation times, a single-dose vaccine is considered the most effective. Third-country nationals also have the option of being vaccinated in a reception centre. The costs</p>



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			<p>for this are covered by the German federal government. Because of this, persons in detention might already be fully vaccinated.</p> <p>3. In general, due to the relatively short time third-country nationals spend in detention before their forced return, only single dose vaccines are administered to detainees (e.g., Johnson & Johnson). However, if an individual awaiting forced return has already received the first half of a double dose vaccination prior to his/her arrival at the detention facility, s/he will be offered a second dose if the vaccine is approved and available.</p> <p>4. Many of the federal states that are currently not offering vaccinations to detainees are currently in the planning phase with regard to the implementation and financing of vaccination of third-country nationals in custody pending forced return.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Greece</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. YES</p> <p>2. Since 1/7/2021 that vaccination started systematically in detention centres in Greece, the majority of detainees have been vaccinated with the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine and only for a few detainees who were vaccinated before this date, Pfizer-Biotech was used. The Ministry of Health provides all vaccines for detention centres, as well as for the rest of the population.</p> <p>3. For the few cases of detainees vaccinated with the double-dose Pfizer-Biotech vaccine, who were released after the first dose, Greece ensured that they would have access to vaccination centres by the same procedure as the general population.</p> <p>4.</p>


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	<p>EMN NCP Hungary</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. No, in Hungary at the moment there are no ongoing discussions on the vaccination of third-country nationals in detention facilities.
	<p>EMN NCP Ireland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. Clarification: Not applicable. Ireland does not operate immigrant detention facilities. Places of detention for immigration related offences are prescribed by Regulation and include prisons and police stations. 2. Not applicable. 3. Not applicable. 4. Suggested Response: As Ireland does not operate immigrant detention facilities, there is no specific strategy to target detained immigrants. There is a vaccine programme in Irish prisons. It should also be noted that irregular migrants can access mainstream Covid-19 related essential healthcare during the pandemic. This includes access to a Covid-19 vaccine under the Irish Covid-19 Vaccine Programme for those who wish to receive it. [See PQ response from Department of Health here: https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2021-01-20/507/]



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	<p>EMN NCP Italy</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes. According to Legislative Decree n. 230/1999 regarding the "Reorganization of Penitentiary Medicine", third country nationals, limited to the period in which they are detained or interned in penitentiary institutions, are enrolled in the National Health Service (SSN) and have equal treatment and full equality of rights with free citizens, regardless of the presence of a regular permit to stay in Italy. This right also concerns access to vaccination for COVID-19. Prisoners, together with prison staff, have been identified early among the priority categories in the National Strategic Plan for anti-SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 vaccination, as reported in the document entitled "Interim recommendations on target groups for anti-SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 vaccination" published by the Ministry of Health, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Higher Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS), Agenas and AIFA on March 10, 2021. These administrations, at present, are about 80,400 (Italian and foreign).</p> <p>2. The choice of the vaccine to be injected to prisoners, both Italian and foreign, is made consistently with the recommendations issued by the Ministry of Health and does not differ from the modality used for the general population. As of September 26, 2021, of the 84,010,605 vaccine doses injected in Italy, 71.2% was represented by Comirnaty (Pfizer-Biotech), 14.4% by Vaxzevria (Astrazeneca), 12.5% by Spikevax (Moderna), and 1.8% by Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). The injection of the Janssen vaccine, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circulars of April 21, 2021 and June 18, 2021, is preferably performed in subjects older than 60 years. COVID19 vaccination is funded by the National Health Fund and the National Contingency Fund.</p> <p>3. Italy has activated a centralized national system for the issuance of the Green Pass to those who have performed the first, second or booster dose of vaccine. This system gives</p>
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			<p>the possibility, therefore, to track all the first doses and schedule the second if the prisoner leaves the institution of punishment in that time interval.</p> <p>4. N.A.</p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. Johnson & Johnson vaccine is used against Covid-19 for third-country nationals who are placed in the detention facilities in Latvia. Vaccination is state funded.</p> <p>3. Johnson & Johnson vaccine is one dose vaccine.</p> <p>4. N/a</p>
	EMN NCP Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. YES</p> <p>2. The type of vaccine offered to the detained third-country nationals is not fixed and they have the possibility to choose it. All vaccines are paid from the state budget. There is no general centrally coordinated program for the vaccination of such persons. Vaccination is voluntary and opportunities to get vaccinated differ from place to place and can be organized by administrators on demand. There were several vaccination drives, which were initiated by various authorities and funded by the state. During the influx of irregular migrants from Belarus this summer, the vaccination of the detained third-country nationals was at the discretion of municipal authorities, some of which took specific actions to promote vaccination. For example, on 16 July 2021, Varėna Primary Healthcare</p>


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			<p>Center organized a visit and offered vaccines to 146 migrants who were detained in Vydenių village. On 19 August 2021, Vilnius municipality sent a vaccination bus to Rūdninkai center for the settlement of immigrants. As these migrants got transferred to longer-term facilities in Rukla, Pabradė, Medininkai, Kybartai and Vilnius, they can now receive vaccines from mobile healthcare teams that provide basic health services on a regular basis. In the autumn, other institutions and NGOs got involved as well. For example, on 25 October 2021, Pfizer vaccines were offered at the Refugee Reception Center at the initiative of the National Blood Center, together with the WHO office in Lithuania and the Lithuanian Red Cross.</p> <p>3. Vaccination is voluntary. In general, all persons who have the right to reside in Lithuania can get vaccinated free of charge. If a detained person is transferred from one place to another after the first dose, the administrator of the place of detention is given information about the planned date of the second dose and organizes the vaccination. If a detained third-country national is released after the first dose and gains the right to reside in Lithuania, access to a second dose would be available through healthcare institutions; however, there have been no such cases to date.</p> <p>4. NA</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Luxembourg</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes. Our vaccination offer to detainees will be launched shortly.</p> <p>2. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be offered to all detainees. The vaccines are financed from the budget of the Ministry of Health.</p>




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			<p>3. No double dose vaccines are used for those yet fully unvaccinated. Those already half-vaccinated before entering our facility may be given a second dose matching their first vaccine.</p> <p>4. N/A.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Netherlands</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. If a third-country national entering the detention facility has not yet been vaccinated, the government offers him or her a Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine unless during triage another vaccination is determined as more suitable. This is financed by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport as part of the nation-wide vaccination campaign against Covid-19.</p> <p>3. If the third-country national has been vaccinated once when entering the detention facility, and upon release he or she will be removed from the Netherlands, the medical professional of the detention facility will check whether the removal will occur during the vaccination interval. If so, the detainee will receive the second vaccination before removal. This does not apply to third-country nationals who receive the Janssen vaccine, because in that case only one dose is required.</p> <p>4. Not applicable.</p>



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	EMN NCP Poland	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES. 2. We use all currently available vaccines with an emphasis on single-dose vaccines and it's financed by the state budget. 3. If a foreigner is released from the guarded center, the information about the necessity of administering the second dose shall be forwarded to the authority/institution under whose responsibility the foreigner is placed. 4. n/a
	EMN NCP Portugal	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. JONHSON AND JONHSON – Use of one dose vaccine; vaccination is finance by the Public Health Authority. 3. NA 4. NA
	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. 2. NA 3. NA


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			<p>4. Yes, at the moment there is an ongoing discussion on the possibilities of vaccination of third country nationals in detention facilities. In case of starting the vaccination, the Slovak Republic would use the single dose vaccine Johnson & Johnson and the vaccination would be realised by a mobile vaccination team. Vaccination would be conducted on a voluntary basis and would be financed by the state.</p>
	EMN NCP Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. Yes. Detainees decide by themselves whether to undergo vaccination.</p> <p>2. Any type of vaccine that is available at the time.</p> <p>3. In case that the detainee is released before the application of the second dose he would receive a certificate indicating “non-completed” vaccination status.</p> <p>4. /</p>
	EMN NCP Spain	Yes	<p>1. No. Bear in mind that the maximum detention period in Spain is very short (60 days).</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4. Vaccination depends from the regional administrations, which have been calling all persons registered in their health systems (also irregularly staying third country nationals) according to their age groups.</p>

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	<p>EMN NCP Sweden</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, Sweden provides access to vaccination against Covid-19 for third-country nationals who are placed in the detention facilities. 2. The vaccination is state funded. The responsibility for carrying out the vaccinations lies however with the regions that are responsible for the publicly financed healthcare. Different vaccines are provided in the different regions. This implies that third-country nationals who are placed in detention are provided with the vaccine that is available in the region the detention facility is situated. The third-country nationals can for this reason be vaccinated with all the vaccines that are recognized in Sweden such as Pfizer-Biotech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. 3. The third-country nationals who are placed in detention are after the first dose vaccine, provided with a vaccination card containing information on when and where they can receive the second dose. Information is also given on how to make an appointment. 4. N/A
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