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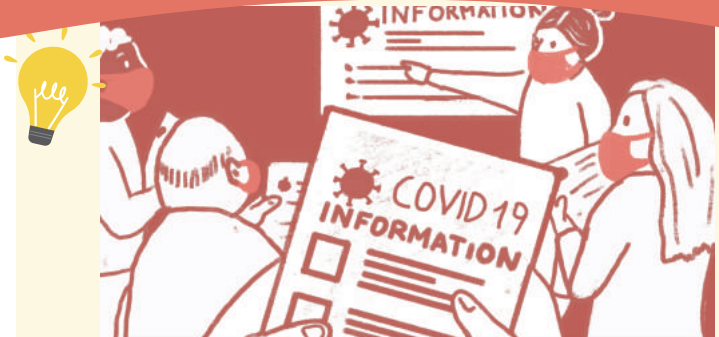


OPEN RESEARCH
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

MAIN FINDINGS



Receiving no information about the virus can be confusing, scary, and stressful. Thus, it is crucial to inform the persons concerned about COVID-19 and the measures to prevent its spread.



Therefore, providing information in a transparent and inclusive way (e.g., accessible format and discussion in small groups) is essential.



The pandemic has made it necessary for the authorities to restrict detainees' interaction with the outside world. This also means that persons concerned cannot meet with their relatives the way they did before.



To uphold contacts with family and friends, many facilities introduced video-calls, visits behind plexiglas and extended the time for phone calls.



Due to COVID-19, therapies were reduced or suspended. However, a halt of therapies can have a severe negative impact on the persons health and their rehabilitation, reintegration and release.



Some facilities upheld therapies by reducing group sizes, offering tele-therapy or making use of protective equipment.



Besides therapy, it is crucial how a person reacts to increasing relaxations of the detention, such as leaving the closed institution for a shorter or longer period, with or without staff. The halt of such relaxations can prolong the deprivation of liberty.

