COVID-19 and Children deprived of their liberty
Inter-Agency Technical Note

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Development process

- UNICEF convened an inter-agency taskforce
- Emerging guidance from UN (WHO/OHCHR *et al.*) and from CSOs (PRI, ILF, TDH *et al.*)
- **Technical Note: Protection of Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic**
States, in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, must respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of every child who is deprived of her or his liberty.
Key asks

01. Instituting a moratorium on new children entering detention facilities.

02. Releasing all children who can be safely released.

03. Protecting the health and well-being of any children who must remain in detention.
3 sections

01.
Use of deprivation of liberty and emergency measures during COVID-19.

02.
Urgent release, use of alternative measures, and no new entries of children into detention during the COVID-19.

03.
Steps key justice actors can take to achieve 01 and 02.
Inter-agency endorsement

Endorsed by:
To access the Technical Note click [HERE](#).

**Introduction**

Experience from previous infectious disease outbreaks indicates that new child protection risks are likely to emerge from the direct effects of COVID-19 as well as from measures to prevent and control its spread. Moreover, existing child protection risks are likely to be exacerbated. Some groups of people are more vulnerable in these circumstances, including, as discussed in this note, children deprived of their liberty, who often have compromised psychosocial, physical and mental health issues, live in crowded or unhygienic conditions and are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect.
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