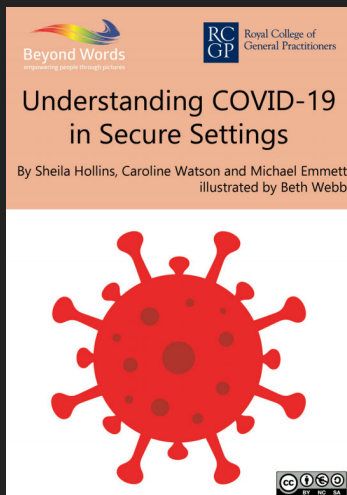


Books Beyond Words – Coronavirus resources for secure settings



Overview

Reference: 45

Location: National

Target Group: Prison
Population

Initiative type: Pictorial
information

Contact

Email:

laalexander@booksbeyondwords.co.uk

rds.co.uk

caroline.watson6@nhs.net

Website:

[Coping with coronavirus –
Beyond Words](#)

Top Tip

It's not all about facts and information, this is about addressing those emotional concerns and a lot of that will be about who delivers the information.

Why is this important to us?

During the pandemic, we saw a gap for clinical guidance for people working in prisons so we wanted to develop resources to use with people in prisons. One third (34%) of people coming into prison have a learning disability or learning difficulties and may have problems reading prison information. We wanted to produce something that is accessible for people coming into prison with difficulties in language, learning disabilities or a short attention span. We were aware of the risk of vaccine hesitancy in this population due to a wide range of factors including mistrust of authority and the overrepresentation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people in prisons.

What are we doing?

We created a pictorial resource which could facilitate difficult conversations around COVID, what the changes would be coming into prison and we updated this resource to include the vaccination process. The resource focuses on the emotional side of decision making. The idea of the pictures is that they include a lot of emotion which can help people to talk about how they feel about the vaccine to support them to make an informed choice. We did pilot the resource in HM Prison Pentonville through the chaplaincy and we've tailored it to come as a training pack including the whole story as well as a one page version that can be handed out to people to create a conversation. The resource has been shared through the chaplaincy, senior leaders, contract tracing leads, safety teams and the key worker network. We aim to make it available more widely as more of the population are being offered the vaccine. We also created an audio-visual version with a voice over which can be transmitted on the prison TV and radio.

Who is involved?

This resource was originally co-produced by Books Beyond Words and the Royal College of General Practitioners. We are working with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service who have made the resource available on their communications platform. We also partnered with an expert by experience. He was able to comment on the styles of the people depicted in the pictures to ensure the prison population would engage. At every stage of the writing process, we went back to him to see how he understood and processed the resource, which was a key input.

What works for us?

We are constantly reviewing how this resource is being used. It is important to consider who delivers this information– we aim to introduce the resource through people with influence who are not seen as authority, mainly peers and the chaplaincy. The ideal is to get a peer who has been vaccinated to share why it's a good thing and create peer to peer conversations. **We have had positive feedback from Pentonville to suggest that this has filled a necessary gap in information resources for the prison population.**