

Input NL – HSC audio meeting 14/05

1. Exit strategies (VWS)

On the 6th of May, the Government of the Netherlands announced a step-by-step approach for the upcoming months. This also means that from the 11th of May, certain measures are lifted. The general communication message has changed from ‘stay at home as much as possible’ to ‘avoid busy places’. People are still required to work from home as much as possible. Furthermore, all unnecessary travel, both nationally and internationally is discouraged.

Certain measures in the area of sport are lifted. Outdoor sports are allowed, when 1,5 m distance can be secured. Matches and competitions are not allowed. Public libraries have been reopened again from the 11th of May. If the situation allows, cinemas, restaurants, cafés and cultural institutions will reopen from the 1st of June, subject to certain conditions: a maximum of 30 people (including staff). People must be able to stay 1.5 metres apart; visitors must reserve beforehand, the owner will discuss with customers beforehand whether their visit entails risks. All other steps of the Dutch step-by-step approach have been incorporated in the HSC exit strategy table.

2. Package on travel and tourism, travel advice (VWS)

The travel advice of the Dutch MFA is currently color code orange, recommending that traveling abroad should only take place when this trip is truly necessary. The potential opening of borders and further developments regarding the health situation will be examined in light of potential relaxations of these measures. This will be done in consultation with the Ministry of Health and the National Institute for Public Health. To minimize the spread of the virus, it is important to limit travel movements as much as possible. If the situation in the Netherlands continues to improve, it is important to prevent transmission of COVID-19 from abroad as much as possible.

Travelers to the Netherlands

- For aviation, travelers from high-risk countries (EASA list) must fill out a health declaration on departure to NL. On arrival in the Netherlands, these travelers are urged to stay in home quarantine for 14 days.
- The EASA list of high-risk countries is updated every week.
- An entry ban (Schengen ban) applies from countries outside the EU. This applies until May 15 (probably extended to June 15).

3. Vaccination plans for COVID-19

Geen updates

4. Contact tracing capacities and EWRS process (RIVM)

Current situation NL:

Previously, extensive contact tracing was problematic because of the number of individuals infected vis-a-vis the available staff working in Municipal Health Services responsible for contact tracing. However, the Municipal Health Services have been able to scale up capacity for extensive contact tracing and will continue to do so.

Could you share additional information on current procedures in place for exchanging contact information between Member States using EWRS: are countries currently using any form of document / excel file when using the Selective Exchange?

In case a traveler is tested positive for the coronavirus and was contagious during a foreign trip, as much information as possible will be exchanged via EWRS (including flight number and, if possible, seat number) This is done via Selective Exchange. We do not use a fixed format for this and therefore we do not have a standard Excel overview / template. A coordinated format will increase uniformity and thus also legibility and usability.