

**To:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@rivm.nl; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@rivm.nl  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tue 9/1/2020 7:25:46 AM  
**Subject:** RE: SLS - Quick fix  
**Received:** Tue 9/1/2020 7:25:47 AM

We moeten serieus kijken naar andere opties, dit blijft gedoe.

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>  
**Sent:** dinsdag 1 september 2020 07:10  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>  
**Subject:** Fwd: SLS - Quick fix

FYI

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 1 September 2020 at 05:45:58 CEST  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@minvws.nl>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ziggo.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@minvws.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@minvws.nl>  
**Subject:** Re: SLS - Quick fix

Dear [REDACTED],

Today I met with HCLS and SLS, along with [REDACTED] (CPS) and others.

HCLS and SLS both confirmed that they are expecting news tomorrow about the delivery of the two BD Max machines, which will increase capacity from ~100 to ~300 tests per day (likely delivery September/ October). The opinion was that this might be sufficient to cover 'reasonable' demand.

However, aside from any demand by CPS (and SMMC), there are a significant number of additional tests being requested by multiple stakeholders across the island (private individuals, GPs, airport, businesses etc.). Consequently, HCLS is now at capacity (if not beyond), while SLS capacity is almost entirely consumed by SMMC.

Therefore a significant shift in testing behaviour across multiple stakeholders would be required to reduce demand to within current capacity limits.

In lieu of such widespread behavioural change, and considering the pace at which things move on the island, I would suggest an immediate back-up plan to alleviate the pressure.

Flying the swabs over to Curacao, while no means cheap, would seem a viable alternative. The other option is of course additional BD Max machines; either purchased, or on loan. I am not sure of additional options at present, but would be happy to discuss.

At a more granular level, I will meet again with [REDACTED] HCLS later this week to specifically discuss current, and projected, CPS testing demand.

Any questions, just let me know.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

On 31 Aug 2020, at 00:10, [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear [redacted],

Apologies for the delay.

We are currently running at ~100 tests per day for the entire island.

Yesterday I discovered some good news: HCLS has already ordered an additional BD Max machine, due to arrive at the end of September, which will double their current max capacity from ~96 per day to 192 per day. This is in addition to another BD Max machine due to arrive at SLS in October, again increasing island capacity by a further 96. I also heard from Nico that Statia will no longer be referring swabs to SLS, which should free up a small amount of existing capacity.

Therefore we are in a better position than anticipated, with a possible ~300 tests per day by end of October. That said, this is the only capacity on St Maarten, and there is still significant lead time to navigate.

I am not a diagnostics person, however my understanding is that BD Max machines are relatively easy to operate and do not require significant lab infrastructure, so this might be the most effective way to quickly increase capacity (providing the lead time to acquire the machine is low). But I believe they are also expensive. The alternative is, as you say, referring swabs to Curacao, which may well have less lead time/ overall expense than a new BD Max. I suppose one option might be the loan of a BD Max machine, again, where lead time is low.

I am going to meet with [redacted] at HCLS next week to discuss current and future capacity, as well as the number of daily tests being requested by CPS, to gain further insight. My suspicion is that while we have markedly increased our daily tests via the establishment of the drive through centre, we might not yet be maximising HCLS test capacity...

If you give me a couple of days I will feed back shortly.

All the best,

[redacted]

On 28 Aug 2020, at 14:00, [redacted] <[redacted]@minvws.nl> wrote:

Dear [redacted],

I just had a meeting about the 'bijstandsverzoek' (request of assistants) of SLS (lab) (see attachment).

We need more time to assess this request, and asked the RIVM to do so.

In the meantime we are looking for a quick fix, so that the capacity will contain adequate. I think we should go two ways:

- 1) What can be done at SXM to increase the test capacity on short term?
- 2) Invest how the lab at Curacao can help to increase the test capacity on SXM.

I asked the RIVM to contact the lab at CUR, to see what is possible.

At the same time, I would like to ask you if you believe there is a shortage of the test capacity already (or within a couple of days)? And if you see any options for increasing the capacity on the island on the short term? (what do you need for that?) As long SXM can test sufficient themselves, we don't need the help of CUR. So it would be good to have some more insights in this ☺ Can you answer my questions?

Thank you!

Met hartelijke groet,

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5.1.2e

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