

Meeting RKI – RIVM – AGES

14 January: 14.00-15.00

RKI (Robert Koch Institute Germany) , RIVM (Dutch National Institute for Public Health and Environment) AGES (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety)

Invitees

RKI	5.1.2e	5.1.2e
	Helaas afgezegd op laatste moment	
RIVM	5.1.2e	5.1.2e
	5.1.2e	5.1.2e
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	5.1.2e	
AGES	5.1.2e	5.1.2e
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Agenda

Chaired by 5.1.2e

- 1) Short introduction, motivation for this meeting
- 2) Agenda/things to discuss on the new Covid variants
(due to short notice not much time to prepare this agenda)
- 3) Discussing the agreed agenda items
- 4) Further cooperation between our institutes

Backgroundinformation on Germany/Austria/Netherlands

Germany (situation on January 13)

Since the beginning of December, there has been a renewed sharp rise in the number of cases. During the holidays, the number of cases decreased. In the last few days, the number of cases has risen again. Whether this trend will continue, beyond the expected retesting and re-reporting, will only become clear in the course of the next few days.

The R-value is currently around 1. Due to the very high number of infected persons in Germany, this means a high number of new infections per day.

Outbreaks are being reported from various districts throughout Germany, currently particularly in nursing and long-term care homes, occupational settings and households. Additionally, in many districts, there is an increasingly diffuse spread of SARS-CoV-2 without traceable transmission chains.

Since patients in older age groups more often have more severe illness due to COVID-19, the number of serious cases and deaths remains on a high level. These can be avoided if all prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with the help of infection control measures.

It is therefore still necessary for the entire population to be committed to infection prevention and control, e.g. by consistently observing rules of distance and hygiene - also outdoors -, by ventilating indoor spaces and, where indicated, by wearing a community mask correctly. Crowds of people - especially indoors - should be avoided.

On 19/12/2020, a new virus variant (B.1.1.7) was reported in the UK. To date, it is unknown how the new virus variant will affect the COVID-19 pandemic. Cases with the new variant have already been detected in numerous countries around the world. So far, a few cases of this new variant in Germany have been reported to the RKI. Further cases may be expected. WHO has also reported another new virus variant detected in South Africa possibly associated with higher transmissibility and more severe disease. Isolates of this lineage have also been identified sporadically in Germany

Austria (situation on January 13)

There are an estimated 70 cases of the coronavirus mutation detected in Austria, including 17 cases in a ski school in Tyrol and more cases at a retirement home in Vienna.

This will mean that the number of infections will increase.

Austria decided to reopen schools from January 25th, although it will be done pursuant to strict rules including weekly testing and having classes only half full.

Punten uit het gesprek met 5.1.2e

- Oostenrijk heeft meerdere lockdowns gehad en zit nu in de 4^e (complete) lockdown.
- Avondklok geldt al van 7 uur s'avonds toch 6 uur ochtends. Ondanks dat lijkt R toch weer te stijgen.
- Cijfers stijgen nu , erg lastig om oorzaak aan te wijzen (is het de nieuwe variant/ geen opvolging van lockdown/spillover effecten?)
- Britse variant is aanwezig in Oostenrijk, outbreak geweest in skigebied waar voornamelijk Britse mensen werken.
- Verwacht is dat er spillover is uit Slowakije o.a. omdat veel gezondheidsmedewerkers uit dit land in Oostenrijk werken. Sommige landen rondom Oostenrijk doen het relatief slechter.
- Op 27 dec is langzaam gestart met vaccinatie, duurt minimaal tot de zomer dat iedereen vaccin heeft gehad, mogelijk zelfs oktober.
- Naast vaccinatie is natuurlijke immuniteit belangrijk als uiteindelijke uitkomst.
- Oostenrijk heeft veel IC bedden, daar zijn niet veel problemen qua bezetting.
- In Oostenrijk is er volgens Franz weinig ruimte om nog meer te doen. Ze kijken u naar FFP2 maskers als extra maatregel bijv. in publiek transport. Eventuele verlenging van de lockdown zou ook mogelijk zijn.
- Instituut was overigens geen voorstander van de mondkapjesplicht (niet-medische) omdat hiervan op de incidentie geen effect lijkt te zijn.
- Travel bans uit UK zijn er al, maar mensen lijken via omwegen toch te kunnen reizen van/naar UK
- Franz geeft aan dat Oostenrijk vooral naar Duitsland kijkt naar wat ze doen. Bijna altijd loopt dit 1 op 1 met Duitsland.

Netherlands

For the second week in a row, the number of newly reported COVID-19 infections decreased somewhat in the Netherlands. The percentage of people who tested positive for COVID-19 decreased slightly, dropping from 13.7% to 12.8%. The number of hospital admissions and ICU admissions were lower than in the week before. Also, fewer new nursing homes with COVID-19 infections were reported. The decreasing figures are the initial effect of the lockdown that started on 15 December.

The number of people that have been found to have the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus variant designated VOC 202012/01 (the UK variant) has risen from 11 to nearly 50 individuals

Links

- https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Situationsberichte/Jan_2021/2021-01-13-en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile
- Dashboard with notified case numbers by state (Bundesland) and district (Landkreis, in German)
- Epidemiologische Parameter des COVID19 Ausbruchs - Update 08.01.2021, Österreich, 2020 (527.93 K)
Download
- [AGES Dashboard COVID-19](#)
- <https://www.rivm.nl/en/news/Tentative-decrease-becomes-visible>
- <https://www.rivm.nl/en/news/update-on-spread-of-uk-coronavirus-variant-voc-20201201-in-netherlands>