



Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,  
Welzijn en Sport

> Retouradres Postbus 20350 2500 EJ Den Haag

Merck & Co, Inc

5.1.2e 5.1.2e

Human Health

C/O 5.1.2e

Postbus 581

2003 PC HAARLEM

#### Bezoekadres

Parnassusplein 5  
2511 VX Den Haag  
T 070 340 79 11  
F 070 340 78 34  
www.rijksoverheid.nl

#### Inlichtingen bij

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M 5.1.2e  
5.1.2e @minvws.nl

Datum

01 MAART 2021

Betreft

Production of authorized vaccines

#### Kenmerk

1833950-218919-PDC19

#### Uw brief

#### Bijlage(n)

*Correspondentie uitsluitend  
richten aan het retouradres  
met vermelding van de  
datum en het kenmerk van  
deze brief.*

cc: 5.1.2e

Dear 5.1.2e

On behalf of the Dutch Government I would like to express our strong appreciation for your continued commitment to mobilize the scientific expertise and experience to help address the pandemic. We already spoke about the role of MSD in the pandemic last summer.

Your recent announcement of Merck's active involvement in discussions with governments, health agencies and other pharmaceutical companies to identify areas of pandemic response where you can play a role, including potential support for production of authorized vaccines, is highly appreciated.

The Netherlands has a unique, internationally recognized position in life sciences. We are very aware of the unique opportunity having MSD in the Netherlands. Your long history of research and development, the legacy of Organon, your significant presence in Animal Health and your important contribution to the Dutch life sciences ecosystem are all key elements.

In the spirit of your commitment I fully endorse your efforts in identifying areas of collaboration, both in the field of vaccines as well as therapeutics in this important field. In this respect, the possibility of involving MSD's Animal Health facilities in Boxmeer to support companies with manufacturing challenges, could be potentially interesting.

I would like to express my appreciation for the constructive dialogue with Merck's country management in the Netherlands and invite you to explore additional possibilities for continuing the constructive collaboration. If we can help in any way, please let us know.

Your sincerely,

5.1.2e

5.1.2e

Hugo de Jonge  
Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport