



# Round Table Report

## 16 March 2021

For restricted use

This report summarizes the ECDC daily roundtable discussion and provides update on threats detected and monitored by Epidemic Intelligence.

## Active threats

### COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – multi-country (world) – 2019-2021

Update: Since the previous RT report published on 15 March 2021 and as of 16 March 2021, 88 542 new cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) and 2 043 new deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA.

New cases have been reported from EU/EEA. The five countries reporting most new cases are: Italy (15 252), Spain (11 358), Poland (10 895), Czechia (10 542) and France (6 471).

New deaths have been reported from EU/EEA. The five countries reporting most new deaths are: Italy (354), France (333), Czechia (278), Germany (238) and Bulgaria (187).

**Summary:** Since 31 December 2019 and as of 16 March 2021, 24 217 611 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported in the EU/EEA, including 578 938 deaths.

#### EU/EEA cases:

As of 16 March 2021, 24 217 611 cases have been reported in the EU/EEA: France (4 078 133), Italy (3 238 394), Spain (3 195 062), Germany (2 581 329), Poland (1 917 527), Czechia (1 412 962), Netherlands (1 161 197), Romania (862 681), Portugal (814 513), Belgium (809 767), Sweden (712 527), Hungary (529 122), Austria (492 581), Slovakia (337 960), Bulgaria (283 194), Croatia (251 174), Ireland (227 316), Greece (222 281), Denmark (221 071), Lithuania (205 644), Slovenia (200 579), Latvia (93 957), Estonia (87 548), Norway (80 440), Finland (67 334), Luxembourg (57 926), Cyprus (39 869), Malta (26 748), Iceland (6 083) and Liechtenstein (2 692).

**EU/EEA deaths:** As of 16 March 2021, 578 938 deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA: Italy (102 499), France (90 788), Germany (73 656), Spain (72 424), Poland (47 206), Czechia (23 657), Belgium (22 545), Romania (21 565), Hungary (17 226), Portugal (16 694), Netherlands (16 067), Sweden (13 146), Bulgaria (11 472), Austria (8 691), Slovakia (8 605), Greece (7 137), Croatia (5 685), Ireland (4 534), Slovenia (4 220), Lithuania (3 410), Denmark (2 393), Latvia (1 769), Finland (800), Estonia (739), Luxembourg (693), Norway (640), Malta (354), Cyprus (240), Liechtenstein (54) and Iceland (29).

#### EU:

As of 16 March 2021, 24 128 396 cases and 578 215 deaths have been reported in the EU.

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**Other news**

Since the previous RT report of 15 March 2021, an additional 10 EU countries have temporarily suspended AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine: [Spain](#), [Italy](#), [Portugal](#), [Slovenia](#), [Sweden](#), [Latvia](#), [Germany](#), [France](#), [Luxembourg](#) and [Cyprus](#).

Experts at the [Paul Ehrlich Institute](#) in Germany have analysed new data and reported a noticeable increase in a special form of very rare cerebral vein thrombosis (sinus vein thrombosis) in connection with a lack of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia) and bleeding close to vaccinations with AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine.

The [Danish Medicines Agency](#) has sent out an updated letter to people who have received the AstraZeneca vaccine within the last 14 days. The purpose is to increase awareness of the symptoms for which people should seek medical advice. Vaccinees with the AstraZeneca vaccine within the last 14 days who experience signs of skin or mucosal bleeding should see a doctor. A similar announcement was issued by Norwegian health authorities.

The EMA Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) is [reviewing](#) all cases of thromboembolic events, and other conditions related to blood clots, reported post-vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. There is currently no [indication](#) that vaccination has caused these conditions, which are not listed as side effects with this vaccine. The [position of the PRAC](#) is that the vaccine's benefits continue to outweigh its risks and the vaccine can continue to be administered while investigation of cases of thromboembolic events is ongoing. EMA will further communicate as the assessment progresses.

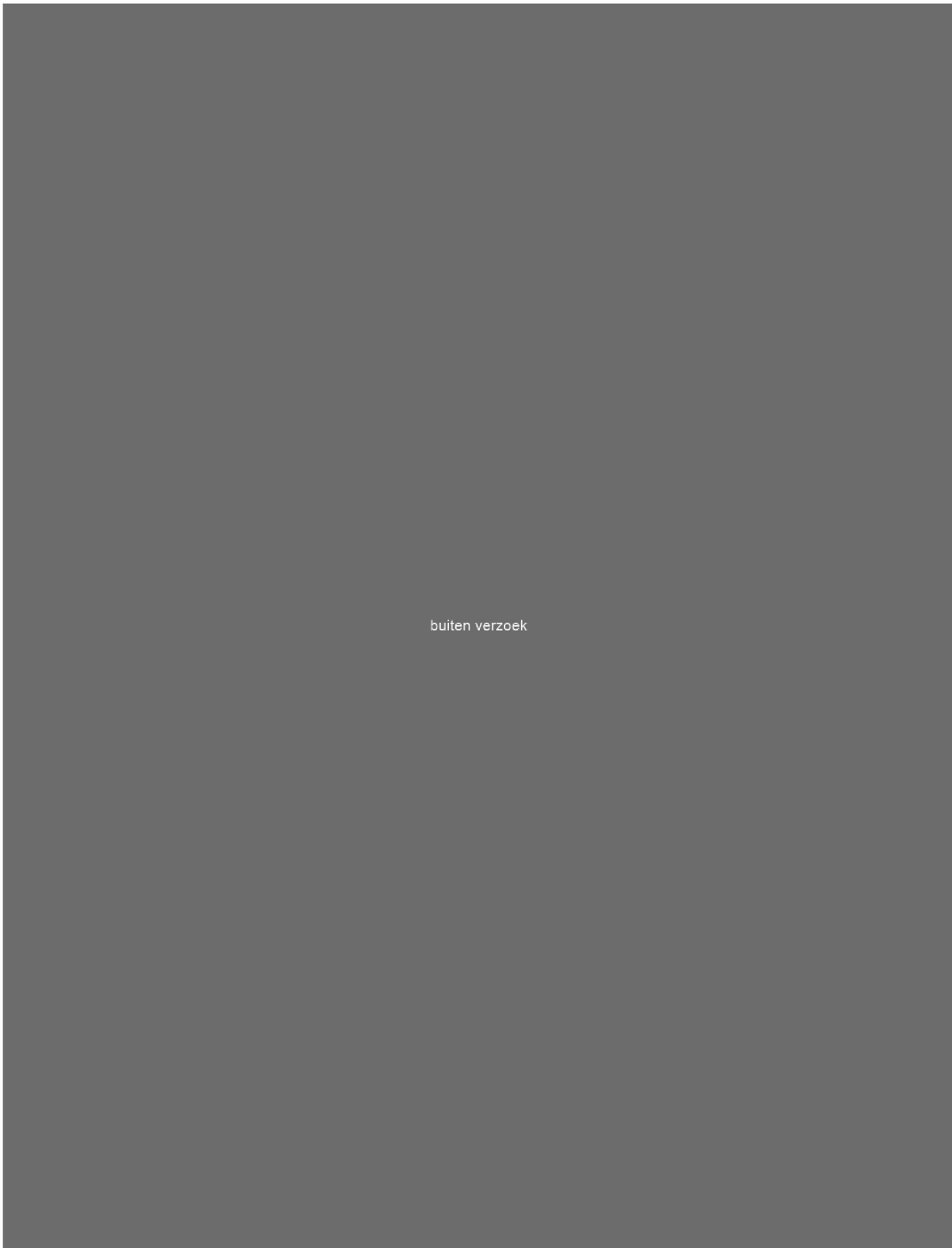
**Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC):**

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constitutes a PHEIC. On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of the [WHO](#) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#) and [sixth](#) International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee meeting for COVID-19 were held in Geneva on 30 April 2020, 31 July 2020, 29 October 2020, and 14 January 2021, respectively. The committee concluded during these meetings that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute a PHEIC.

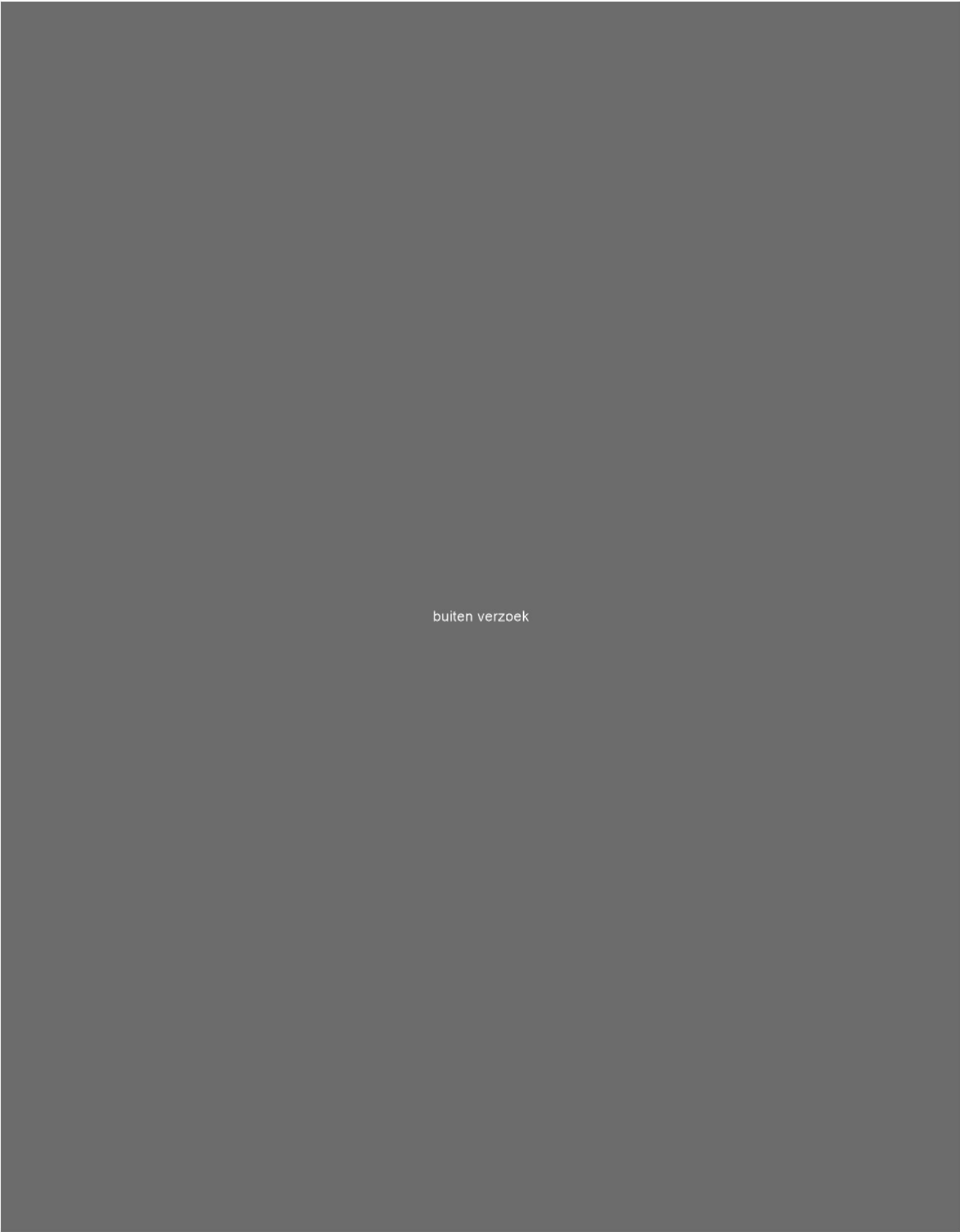
**Assessment:** For the last available risk assessment, please visit [ECDC's dedicated webpage](#).

**Actions:** ECDC has published the 14th update of its [rapid risk assessment](#). A [dashboard](#) with the latest updates is available on ECDC's website. ECDC's [rapid risk assessment](#) on the risk related to the spread of new SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern in the EU/EEA was published on 29 December 2020, and a [first update](#) published on 21 January 2021.

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## Expert deployment

One EPIET fellow has been deployed in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, until 21 March 2021 to work with

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GOARN on the Go.Data implementation to strengthen the COVID-19 surveillance and response.

The Round Table Report contains information that could be considered sensitive or is still under verification. Its distribution is restricted to intended users only.

### Participants

Senior Management: -

EI and Response Head of Section: -

#### Duty Officers:

24/7: -

Threat Detection: -

Rapid Assessment and Outbreaks: -

Communication: -

#### Representative of:

Epidemic Intelligence: -

Response: -

Vaccine Preventable Diseases: -

Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases: -

Food and Water-borne Diseases: -

Influenza: -

Microbiology Coordination: -