



# Round Table Report

## 15 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 14 March 2021 and as of 15 March 2021, 105 395 new cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) and 1 176 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: France (26 343), Italy (21 304), Poland (17 272), Hungary (7 706) and Germany (6 604).

New deaths have been reported from EU/EEA. The five countries reporting most new deaths are: Italy (264), Czechia (153), France (140), Hungary (131) and Poland (110).

**Summary:** Since 31 December 2019 and as of 15 March 2021, 24 127 491 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 576 791 deaths.

#### EU/EEA cases:

As of 15 March 2021, 24 127 491 cases have been reported in the EU/EEA: France (4 071 662), Italy (3 223 142), Spain (3 183 704), Germany (2 575 849), Poland (1 906 632), Czechia (1 402 420), Netherlands (1 155 732), Romania (859 709), Portugal (814 257), Belgium (808 189), Sweden (712 527), Hungary (524 196), Austria (490 671), Slovakia (337 503), Bulgaria (278 557), Croatia (251 045), Ireland (226 741), Greece (221 147), Denmark (220 459), Lithuania (205 385), Slovenia (200 375), Latvia (93 781), Estonia (86 086), Norway (78 040), Finland (66 869), Luxembourg (57 877), Cyprus (39 651), Malta (26 535), Iceland (6 072) and Liechtenstein (2 678).

#### EU/EEA deaths:

As of 15 March 2021, 576 791 deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA: Italy (102 145), France (90 455), Germany (73 418), Spain (72 258), Poland (47 178), Czechia (23 379), Belgium (22 441), Romania (21 483), Hungary (17 083), Portugal (16 684), Netherlands (16 049), Sweden (13 146), Bulgaria (11 285), Austria (8 669), Slovakia (8 528), Greece (7 091), Croatia (5 677), Ireland (4 534), Slovenia (4 218), Lithuania (3 396), Denmark (2 391), Latvia (1 767), Finland (786), Estonia (728), Luxembourg (689), Norway (639), Malta (351), Cyprus (240), Liechtenstein (54) and Iceland (29).

#### EU:

As of 15 March 2021, 24 040 701 cases and 576 069 deaths have been reported in the EU.

1/5

### Other news

Since the last RT report on 12 March, according to media reports, [Romania](#) has paused vaccination with the Astra Zeneca (AZ) batch implicated in cases with blood clots a few days ago in [Austria](#). [Bulgaria](#) has paused all vaccinations with AZ until EMA concludes its assessment. Additionally, [Ireland](#) has paused all AZ vaccinations, [Piedmont \(Italy\)](#) has paused the use of a second batch of AZ vaccines and the [Netherlands](#) has also suspended the use of AZ vaccine.

[Norwegian health authorities](#) reported that one fatal case and three cases presenting severe side effects were reported in the country after receiving the AZ vaccine. According to the statement, these cases were reported in "young people".

[Astra Zeneca \(AZ\)](#) announced on 14 March 2021, that there is no evidence of increased blood clot risk from the vaccine. According to media reports quoting an AZ representative "A careful review of all available safety data of more than 17 million people vaccinated in the European Union and the UK with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca has shown no evidence of an increased risk of pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis or thrombocytopenia, in any defined age group, gender, batch or in any particular country." AZ reported that there were 15 events of deep vein thrombosis and 22 events of pulmonary embolism that have been reported so far, which is similar across other licensed COVID-19 vaccines.

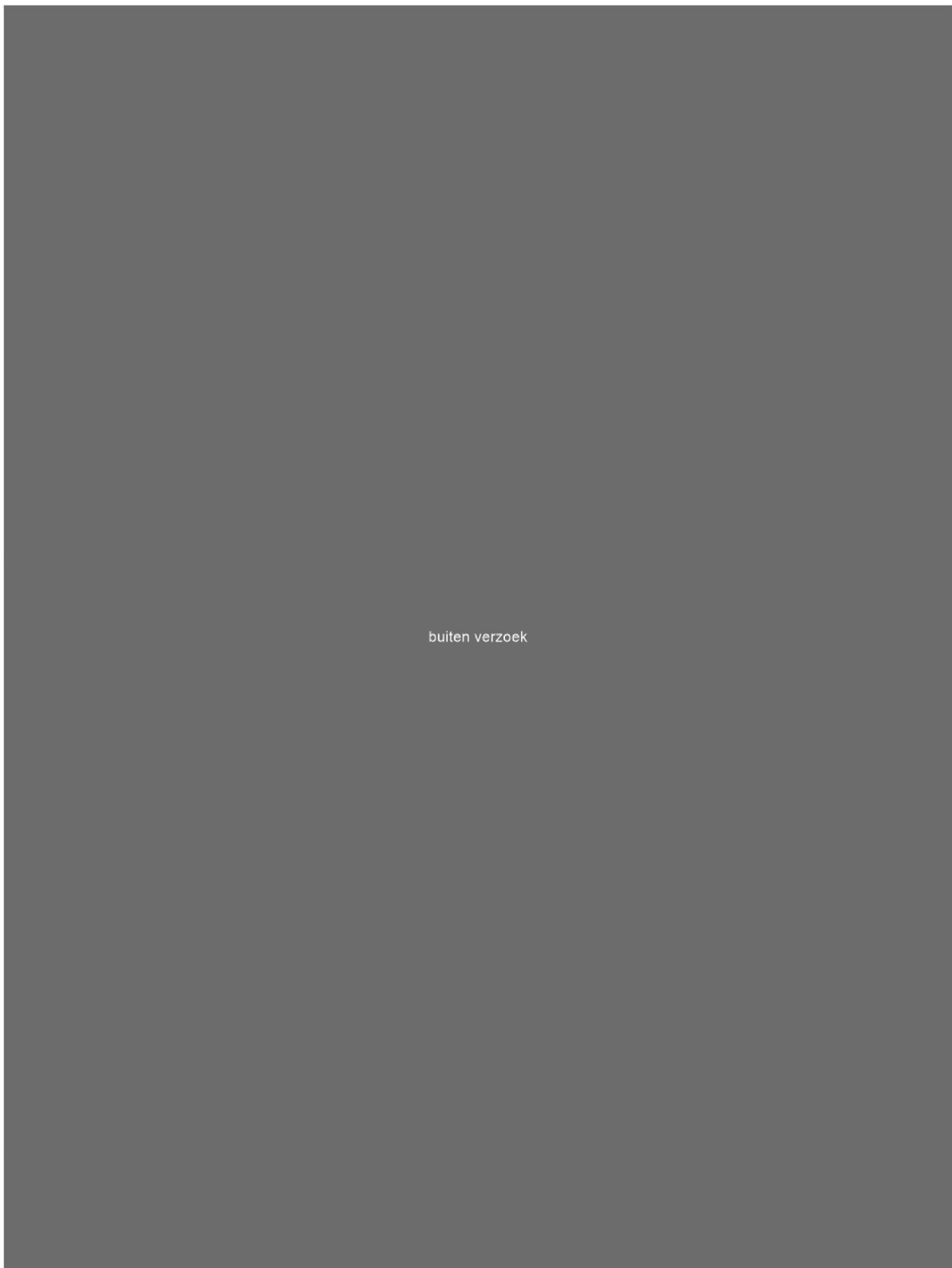
### Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC):

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.

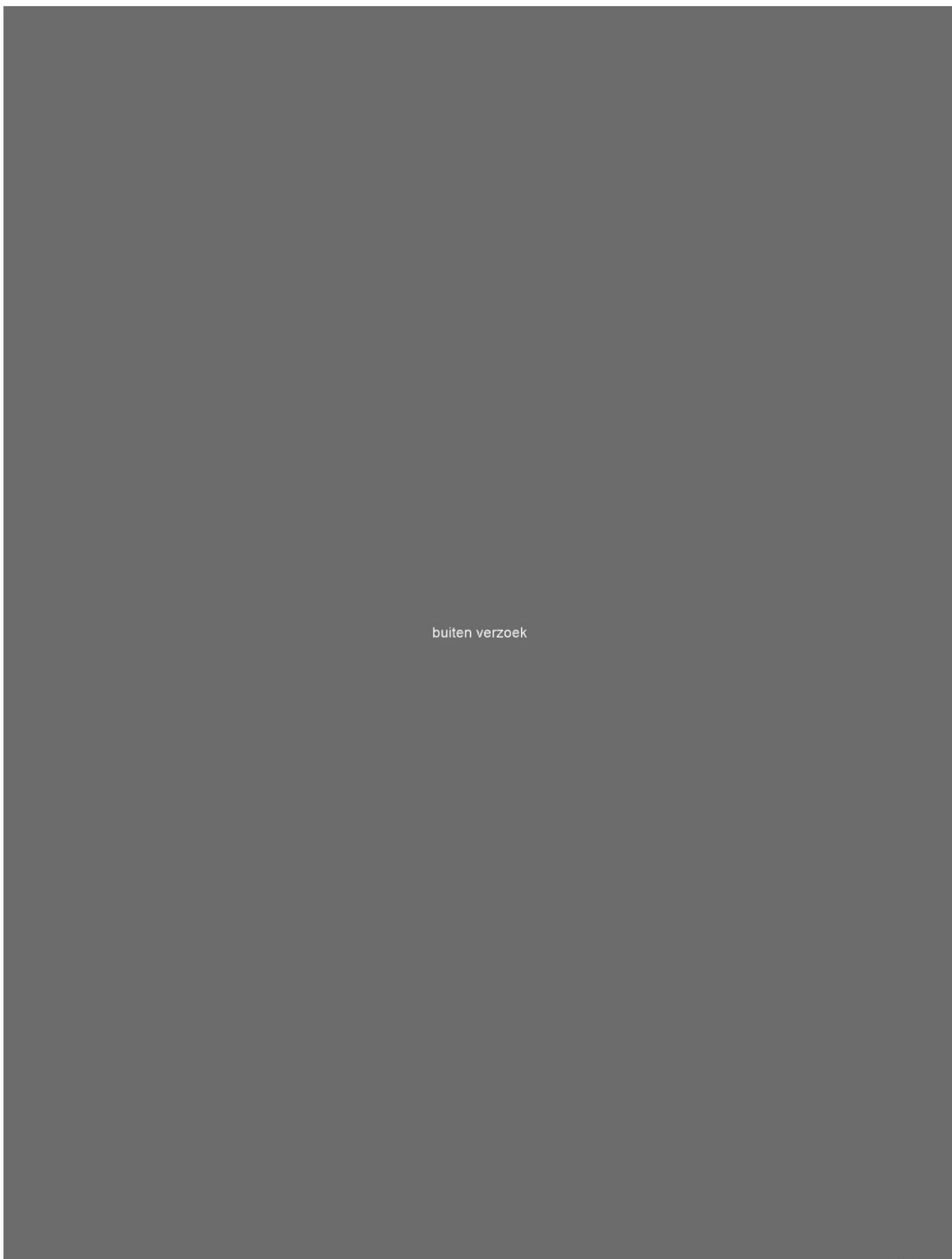
**Assessment:** For the last available risk assessment, please visit [ECDC's dedicated webpage](#).

**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 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: -