

## 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
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RIVM	5.1.2e	5.1.2e
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AGES	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.

### **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](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>