

Van: 5.1.2e
Verzonden: woensdag 11 november 2020 14:48
Aan: 5.1.2e 5.1.2e
Onderwerp: FW: [Netherlands] - TESSy data quality follow-up for COVID-19
Bijlagen: Netherlands-ECDC testing discussion_11112020.docx; Compare tests and notifications NL 11nov2020_edited.xlsx

Opvolgingsvlag: Follow up
Vlagstatus: Voltooid

Ha allen,

Op basis van mijn mail vanochtend dus meteen een vrij uitgebreide telcon met ECDC 5.1.2e gehad.
Zie de aantekeningen die gemaakt zijn in de word bijlage.
We hebben dus nu besloten om een correctie te maken voor de onderrapportage door de virologische dagstaten.
Dit houdt in; per ISO week: factor = aantal positieve testen virologische dagstaten / aantal meldingen GGD.
Deze factor wordt dan gebruikt om het aantal testen van die week te schatten. Zie ook de excel bijlage.
Hiermee wordt dus het aantal testen per hoofd van de bevolking hoger en het percentage positieve testen een stuk lager.
Niet perfect, maar het komt in ieder geval een stuk beter in de buurt van de percentages die wij zelf in de PDF rapporteren.
Susan vd Hof was akkoord.

Paar dingen die dus belangrijk zijn:

- We moeten dus de komende weken de NCOVtest data corrigeren met deze factor voor de aanlevering en in de gaten houden of dit nodig blijft
- Op nationaal niveau rapporteren we nu het percentage uit de teststraten, goed om wekelijks te vergelijken of deze percentages beetje overeenkomen
- Aantal testen rapporteren we in principe alleen in de PDF, wel nuttig om te weten dat door ECDC dus een gecorrigeerd getal wordt gerapporteerd. Ze zullen er netjes bij vermelden dat het om een schatting gaat.
- De factor ligt nu vier weken rond de 50%, we hebben nu afgesproken dat we deze factor wekelijks berekenen, maar het lijkt dus wel een stabiele (enorme!) onderrapportage, die dus niet bijgewerkt wordt.

Ik heb ook aangegeven dat wij de ziekenhuisdata op andere manier gaan rapporteren. Daar nog twee vragen over 5.1.2e denk ik):

- Moeten we hier toestemming aan NICE voor vragen, of ze hiervan in ieder geval op de hoogte stellen?
- Eens om dan ook de IC data te gaan rapporteren?

Verder begreep ik van [redacted] dat de maatregelen op de website ook niet helemaal (meer) kloppen. Ik heb dit nagevraagd en we kunnen dit ook bij ECDC aangeven.

Wie is hier verantwoordelijk voor dat de maatregelen goed beschreven staan? LCI? Of moeten wij dit zelf aanpassen?

Groeten, [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>

Sent: woensdag 11 november 2020 12:57

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>

Subject: RE: [Netherlands] - TESSy data quality follow-up for COVID-19

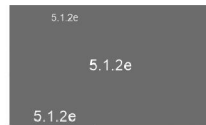
Dear [redacted]

Also, please find the notes for our discussion attached.

We will make a methodological footnote accordingly so that everyone is aware that we are reporting adjusted numbers to best reflect the true situation.

Best,

[redacted]



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From: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
Sent: 11 November 2020 09:47
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>
Subject: RE: [Netherlands] - TESSy data quality follow-up for COVID-19

Dear COVID-NET team,

Following up on the discussion below, I would like to discuss the following with you.

On the ECDC website, the weekly test positivity of the Netherlands is much higher than what we nationally report.

I think that this has to do with the fact that the numerator and the denominator that is used for this graph are derived from different sources.

I assume that you use as numerator the weekly notifications from the case-based (NCOV) file, and as denominator the number of tests as reported in the new NCOVTEST file (previously in NCOVAGGR file). Is that correct?

As the municipal health services don't notify the number of tests, we receive this information from the virological laboratories in the Netherlands.

This worked very well, but recently we are experiencing some underreporting and delay in this system. Therefore, the last five weeks, the number of tests reported by these labs are lower, which artificially increases the test positivity.

Please find attached an excel file that displays the problem. I have there assumed how you calculated the test positivity as notifications/total tests per ISO week.

Please note that in most weeks, there is a small discrepancy between notifications and positive tests outcomes, probably due to a difference in reporting date by the two different reporting systems.

In the last five weeks however, you see a major difference between notifications and positive tests, indicating the delay/underreporting by the labs.

It would therefore be better to base the test positivity for both the numerator and denominator on the virological laboratories, but as far as I'm aware, there is no way to separately report the number of positive tests per week.

Is that something that could be implemented in the future?

Another option would be that we send you just a list of percent positives per week, but that probably causes difficulties for your processing of the data? Worst case we might better not report the number of tests, so we have missing data instead of wrong data, or we build in a reporting delay of a few weeks.

We are sorry for this inconvenience and would be happy to discuss with you if and how we can (temporarily) solve this issue.

We are working on a better system by the labs to improve the laboratory reporting again, but cannot say if and when this will be completely solved.

Best regards,



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The Netherlands

Tel: 5.1.2e
Email: 5.1.2e @rivm.nl



From: 5.1.5 <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>
Sent: woensdag 21 oktober 2020 10:15
To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e @erasmusmc.nl;
5.1.2e @nivel.nl; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>
Cc: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>;
5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>;
<5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.5
<5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>

Subject: RE: [Netherlands] - TESSy data quality follow-up for COVID-19

Dear [REDACTED]

We thank you and the team for having nearly complete data in TESSy. We recognise and appreciate the amount of work and effort that goes into collecting, cleaning, and reporting these surveillance data.

The completeness of data table below was calculated in two ways – the cases and death completeness variables represent the proportions we have in TESSy compared to what our Epidemic Intelligence team collects from publicly available sites.

The completeness for the other variables represent an internal completeness – so 50% completeness for outcome means that 50% of the TESSy records have something recorded for that variable.

We appreciate the difficulties in reporting the variable outcome as often recovered patients are not reported. Can you please confirm that it is reasonable for us to assume that Unknown = No (death) for this variable?

The variable severe is a combination of other variables including ICU or respiratory support or both.

Regarding the reporting of deaths, we can confirm that the different dates are causing the issues as numbers in a given week will look different depending on the dates used.

We have set up an internal meeting at ECDC next week to discuss the usage of TESSy data for countries (like the Netherlands) that have nearly complete TESSy data so that we do not have conflicts with data from EI. We will get back to you with the decisions made during that meeting so that ECDC reflects the best data for the Netherlands.

Please let us know if you'd like to set up a teleconference next week.

Best,

[REDACTED] on behalf of the COVID-NET team

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>

Sent: 19 October 2020 22:03

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@erasmusmc.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nivel.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ecdc.europa.eu>; [REDACTED]

<5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; <5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; <5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>

Subject: RE: [Netherlands] - TESSy data quality follow-up for COVID-19

Dear 5.1.2e and 5.1.2e and COVID-NET team,
Of course we are happy to discuss with you how we can improve reporting of Dutch data to and by ECDC.

To be able to answer your questions correctly, it would help us very much to understand better how you have calculated the completeness of the data. Could you tell me how you have calculated this for the parameter 'severe'?

To already explain a little bit:

Since it is unfortunately not possible to follow up on the patients, we don't have the information on hospital discharge. Also, we are notified if a patient has died (although this is probably incomplete), but we are not notified when a patient is recovered. Although it can be expected that the majority of the patients that is not notified as deceased, has recovered, we cannot officially report the patient as recovered, hence the incompleteness of the variable 'outcome'.

The reporting of 'deaths' seems strange to me, since there are many below and many above 100%. I would assume that this a 'date' issue, since the date of notification is often (far) later than the date of death. Related to this, we would like to discuss something that I have emailed you about last week October 13, I will paste this email below. I think that is also of importance to discuss with you and is related to this topic:

Dear colleagues at ECDC,

We have a question regarding the Dutch COVID-19 data that is published on the ECDC website.

The open data that you publish on the website (<https://opendata.ecdc.europa.eu/covid19/casedistribution/csv/>) and that is subsequently also used by WHO, differs from the data that we send to you through TESSy.

The data that we send through TESSy contains the correct data as requested by ECDC. Could you tell us which data source you use for the data that you publish?

If you use our open data that is daily published on our website, the variable 'date used for statistics' is not the same as the variable 'date used for statistics' that we report for the tessa upload, and that is based on the meta datafile from ECDC. Might this be causing the difference?

We would like to discuss with you how we can make sure that the correct data is published by ECDC.

The rest of this week, I will be on leave and be happy to discuss these issues with you the beginning of next week. Please contact 5.1.2e for more urgent questions.

Kind regards, 5.1.2e

5.1.2e

5.1.2e

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Email: 5.1.2e @rivm.nl

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From: 5.1.5 5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>

Sent: vrijdag 16 oktober 2020 12:12

To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e @erasmusmc.nl; 5.1.2e @nivel.nl; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>

Cc: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>

Subject: [Netherlands] - TESSy data quality follow-up for COVID-19

Dear colleagues,

ECDC has the responsibility to conduct surveillance to monitor the progress and circulation of the virus throughout the EU/EEA and the UK.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, focus on the European epidemiologic situation has become even more important.

Currently, the data in TESSy are incomplete and we are following up with everyone to improve data completeness and timeliness.

Below are the surveillance data quality issues that require attention and action:

- Missing complete data on deaths



- Missing data on outcome
- Missing data on severe
- See full completeness and timeliness report by variable below

ECDC is eager to help you submit timely and complete data so that we may closely monitor the progression of this pandemic.

Could you kindly get back to us **no later than Friday, 23 October** so we can discuss how to improve the quality of the data for your country?

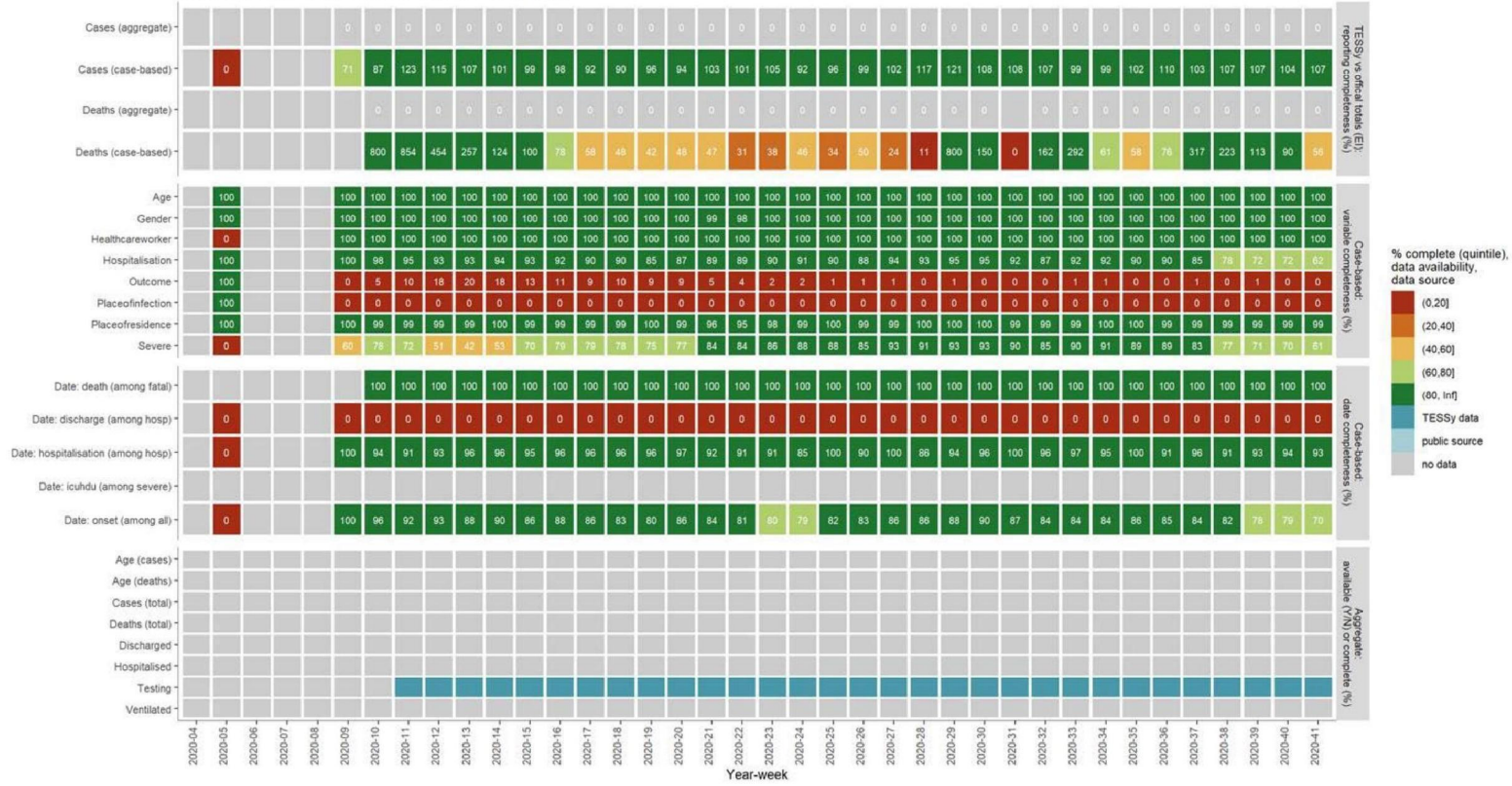
We are happy to organise a teleconference to discuss how to address these issues and any support ECDC could provide.

Best regards,

 and  on behalf of the COVID-NET team

Detailed report by variable by week:

Netherlands: completeness and data availability, TESSy



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