

## The Dutch covid-19 situation

Last update: 14/4

Most recent changes in red.

### Dutch measures

- On 13 April, the government announced a new 6-step roadmap for a safe way out of lockdown. However, the current epidemiological situation does not allow for any additional relaxations just yet. One small adjustment to current measures was made: from 19 April onwards, BSO's (after school childcare) will reopen. The government will decide on a week-by-week basis whether relaxations are possible.
- [Plan to reopen society step by step | News item | Government.nl](#)
- The strict advice not to travel abroad is active until 15 May.
- The Dutch measures still amount to a strict lockdown. People should only go outside (1) to shop for essentials, (2) to get medical care for or to care for others or animals, (3) to get some fresh air or to go to work/school if working or learning remotely is not possible.
- The aim of all of these measures is to continue to limit contact as much as possible in order to (1) reduce the current infection rate, (2) delay the spread of the original and new coronavirus variants and (3) prevents the new variants' entry into the Netherlands (as much as possible).

### Vaccinations

- After the Dutch vaccination programme started on 6 January, admittedly later than most other European countries, the Netherlands is now accelerating its programme.
- The number of available vaccines is increasing, and we are using the doses as efficiently as possible.
- On 12 April, about 3,9 mln injections had been administered, of which about 850.000 were 2<sup>nd</sup> injections. This means about 6% of all inhabitants older than 18 are now fully protected.  
<https://www.rivm.nl/covid-19-vaccinatie/cijfers-vaccinatieprogramma> and  
<https://coronadashboard.rijksoverheid.nl/landelijk/vaccinaties>
- The first results and numbers show that vaccines are effective in reducing the spread of the coronavirus among groups that have been vaccinated. Elderly homes are an example of this, which were previously potential hotspots for the spread of the virus.
- In the beginning, these vaccinations had all been with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. On 12 February, the Netherlands also began administering the AstraZeneca vaccine. We will start using the Janssen vaccine as soon as possible.
- The Netherlands has decided to only use the AstraZeneca-vaccine for people who are at least 60 years old.

- The Netherlands has not yet decided what to do with the Janssen-vaccine. The government will wait on advice from the EMA.

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### Testing and test sequencing

- The Netherlands considers testing an important measure in combating the coronavirus.
- Recently, test capacity has been extended with so-called 'XL-testing locations'. Large-scale testing provides us with the vital information that is needed to continually monitor the epidemiological situation in our country.
- We are of course fully transparent about this information and readily share it with (neighboring) countries.
- Extensive testing allows us to act sooner to reduce the spread of the virus. We are continually expanding our testing capacity and facilities.
- Additionally, the Netherlands is actively sequencing positive test results in laboratories in order to surveil and research the spread of different variants of the virus. For example, sequencing allowed us to estimate the spread of the British variant of the virus.
- At the beginning of the pandemic, the RIVM was sequencing approximately 400 random positive samples per week. This will be gradually increased to up to 1500 samples per week, which is approximately 5% of all positive tests (rough estimate, depending on weekly amount of tests).
- Coronavirus self-test kits are now available in pharmacies.
- Pre-admission testing will also provide more opportunities in other sectors. People who want to take part in an event or activity will have to get tested beforehand and will be admitted if they can show a negative test result. This can be done using an app.

### The numbers: recent trends

- In the past week, the situation has slightly worsened again. The number of infections rose by 6% compared to last week. The amount of new hospitalizations (1700) and IC-admittances (386) stayed approximately the same compared to the week before.
- The R-value is now 0,97 (29 March).
- The strict lockdown and curfew measures have proven to be effective in reducing the spread of the virus. However, the spread of the British variant of the coronavirus has dampened the decline of these numbers. If it wasn't for our strict lockdown measures, there would have been a large increase in the number of infections.
- Despite our best efforts, such as a strict 'double-lock' testing policy regarding travel from for example the UK, the British/117 variant was able to gain ground in the Netherlands.
- Latest data from test surveillance (sequencing) shows that in week 11 of this year the share of the British variant has grown to approx. 90%. The South African and Brazilian variants are much less widespread. The South African variant has stabilized on about 2-3% of all cases. Only 4 cases of the Brazilian variant have been found in test sequencing.
- The R-value of the British variant is about 30% higher than that of the 'classic' variant.
- Nevertheless, the Dutch government's strict measures – and the willingness of the Dutch

population to adhere to them – will continue as long as the epidemiological situation requires it.

- [Meer positieve testen, ook percentage positief stijgt | RIVM](#)