

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Health Committee Secretariat

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Date 24 February 2023
Subject Written Comments – OECD reports

Dear Health Committee Secretariat,

Thank you for the extremely valuable reports that you have presented to us at the Health Committee meeting beginning of December 2022.

As promised, on behalf of the Dutch MoH, we have a few written comments for the Long Covid report that we would like to share with you. Please feel free to contact us with follow-up questions if needed.

Agenda item 9: Long COVID

- Input for Figure 1 (p.6): NL does not have estimates of long COVID prevalence at national level.
 - This is partly due because of privacy and proportionality reasons. The other reason is that we do not have one common definition for post-covid. The post-covid symptoms are diverse, and hence the group is very varied.
 - A large-cohort study estimates that around 1 in 8 of people who had COVID gets post-covid symptoms: [Persistence of somatic symptoms after COVID-19 in the Netherlands: an observational cohort study - The Lancet](#)
- Input for Figure 3 (p.9): NL does not have a nationwide long covid definition.
 - Generally we use the terminology post covid but they are used interchangeably. However, in the Dutch MoH we prefer using the term post covid. The term 'long covid' is perceived to be the English term.
- Input for p.10, section 28: the ICD code for post covid is used within the NL.
- Input for p.18, section 53: primary care services are the first and main point of contact for patients with long COVID symptoms.
 - Primary care providers have guidelines to their disposal to treat long covid patients (see: [Richtlijnen - C-support](#))
- Input for Figure 8 (p. 19): the NL has not developed national plans for long COVID
- Input for p.19, section 58: The NL has not developed specialised clinics to care for patients with long covid.

- We cannot exclude the possibility that some bottom-up initiatives have sprang up but these clinics are not common practice.
- Input for figure 9 (p.22): the NL has developed guidelines for patient's self-management for long COVID.
 - A platform for patients with long COVID symptoms have been launched. ([C-support EN](#) | [We support people who are suffering from long-term corona](#)) This platform offers help and advice with respect to self-management, also in relation to work, mental health and social wellbeing.
- On a more general note:
 - Interesting to note is that there are plans to set up an expert centre that aims to bring research and practice together.
 - We would like to highlight that we rolled out one large study, run by our Public Health Authority (RIVM). You can find more information here: [RIVM launches study on Long COVID | RIVM](#).
- We would also like to share two renowned studies on long-covid from the NL:
 - [Persistence of somatic symptoms after COVID-19 in the Netherlands: an observational cohort study - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)
 - [Prevalence and severity of symptoms 3 months after infection with SARS-CoV-2 compared to test-negative and population controls in the Netherlands - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

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Yours sincerely,

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