



**Fédération Européenne
des Médecins Salariés**
European Federation
of Salaried Doctors

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To: FEMS

Regarding: Interim Report FEMS – The Netherlands
Date: September 18, 2020
From: Mrs. Hanneke Verheijde / mr. Christiaan Keijzer

Since our last meeting COVID-19 is still an actual topic in the Netherlands, as it is in most countries around the world. The virus decreased its impact in the months June and July. At the end of the holiday season until now we see a daily increase. The Dutch national government informed the public that a regional approach is in place since August. This means that regional governments can make decisions and regulations in how to deal with COVID-19 in that specific region. During the first period of the outbreak only national measures were taken. This is a big difference since then.

The Dutch approach since June

At the end of June schools were reopened, as were museums and cinemas. Also sport facilities were reopened and contact jobs could go back to work. Meetings were allowed bigger than 30 people, if it is possible to maintain the 1.5 metre rule in a venue. Public transportation can be used by everyone who wears a protective mask. All bars and restaurants are open, except nightclubs.

The main Dutch approach of coping with the virus, apart from regionalisation, hasn't change much. The basic measures are stated by the government:

- work from home if you can
- keep 1.5 metres away from others
- Wash your hands on a regular basis
- Stay at home when you have any complaints, such as common cold symptoms.

The possibilities of being tested in COVID-19 are much bigger than they were in June. It is now possible for everyone to get tested if they have any symptoms. The Dutch municipal health services (GGD) perform the tests and use the PCR test. The test capacity should be 44.000 per day in September. The advice is to get tested when you have symptoms and to stay home until you have the result of the test. The test capacity is quite under pressure at the moment, with not enough laboratories to analyse the tests.

Healthcare professionals reward

Many hospitals made arrangements with healthcare employees about extra rewards considering overtime. Next to that the Dutch government had promised a bonus of 1000 euro for every healthcare employee that worked with covid-19 patients. Also in 2021 every healthcare employee will receive an extra bonus of 500 euro. A structural salary increase is not agreed upon yet. Medical specialists are excluded from the bonus.



Statistics

- The ICU capacity in the Netherlands was 1150 beds. This can increase now up to 2000 beds.
- Date 14th of September:
 - o 82.099 are tested positive in the Netherlands since the outbreak
 - o 6.254 registered deaths (in hospitals and tested positive)
- Date 25th of August:
 - o 12.126 people have been admitted to hospital